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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

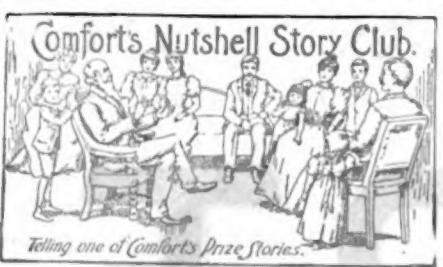
NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with name of place if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR, NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—adventure, love, war, peace, of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

No premium will be given for subscriptions sent in under the Short Story Prize offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

6. Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may, at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.

Katherine Stagg, First Prize,
Walton Riggs, Second Prize,
Charles E. Barns, Third Prize,
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize,
Ella F. Mosby, Fifth Prize.

The Cowboy's Dream.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE STAGG.

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ELL, I'm that gol-darned tired, I could bust out acryin'!" The speaker dropped limply into the one rickety chair the place afforded. She was very much out of breath; she was rather stormy as to expression; and, it must be confessed, somewhat grotesquely dressed. She had a bundle in her arms that threatened to spill its contents any moment; she clutched at a big roll of glaring yellow hand bills while trying to hold a small white bouquet without interfering with her other encumbrances; but dusty, tired, and disheveled, she was wonderfully pretty! And when we say a girl is wonderfully pretty, the practised story reader picks up his ears for he knows that is where and why most stories begin.

There had been an encouraging shout from a half dozen miners and cowboys outside the dance hall as Nan entered. She fanned vigorously for a moment smiling grimly, then broke out. "I don't care, I got here first. I saw me rival startin' out pickin' her way, an' I say to myself: Nan ye've been the miner's pride and pet since ye wuz a baby an' on this night, the great annual ball of the Bloody Buccaneers—ain't that a grand name? there an't a soul in town knows what it means! well, I sez, ye must be fust on the spot; an'—I came lickity split! Thar ain't never been a gal on the plains could sing or dance or shoot with me; an' now Mexican Joe has got to go meddlin' an' gettin' up this here prize winnin' contest for the best singer an' dancer an' bringin' that sickly lookin' gal out here to—try for the prizes; it makes me sick!" Nan gulped down a sob as she crossed over to the primitive sideboard. The familiar whiskey bottle and a glass were picked up almost unconsciously, and Nan proceeded to pour out a generous drink, but paused with it half way to her mouth, and with a curious look, she set it down again, reached over for a larger tumbler which held some water and began to arrange in it her little drooping half dozen flowers with as much care as if they had been the rarest orchids.

"Tain't enough to have Eastern Song Bird for yer rival, but it likes to harrr my feelin's when I think that the best steady I ever had got killed last night, and is layin' dead thar in the next room! An' I ain't got the money to bury him decent. The prize is wuth two hundred dollars. My, what a funeral that would pay for! I must win it—I will win it!"

Carefully carrying the precious bouquet, Nan crossed to the inner room—"Bill, you wuz a good man to me an' I'll sing for ye to-night

with all my heart and soul as I never sung for yer while yer wuz alive." And Nan's bright dark eyes glowed and cheeks crimsoned with the earnestness of her promise. Presently there was a timid knock at the door and it was pushed open, so gently it must have surprised that old door more accustomed to kicks and even shots. A girl entered younger and smaller than Nan, a dainty creature graceful as a fairy; by the roll of music she carried it was quite easy to guess that it was Nan's rival.

"The Great Eastern Song Bird." She looked about her in affright as she exclaimed "Oh, dear, I wonder if this is the place? I'm half scared to death. They say there was a murder here last night and that 'it' has not been taken away yet. What an awful place to hold a ball in! Oh, I will be so glad when Mexican Joe gets here; he don't seem like the rest of these looking men."

There was a slight sound behind her, and the poor Song Bird jumped as if she expected a grizzly bear to leap out of the piano, but it was only Nan, looking crosser than any self-respecting grizzly ever dare look. She glanced at the new arrival and remarked loftily, "I s'pose you're Miss Lightfoot from the East!" hurrying to secure the one chair as she proceeded to take off her shoes and put on a pair of white slippers much too small for her.

"I am; Dolly Lightfoot, thank you;" she answered politely, "and this is Miss—"

"Oh, thar ain't no gol-darned airs about me, I'm just Nan!"

"Ah, just Nan!" there was a slight suspicion of sarcasm in Dolly's voice as she glanced about for another chair in vain.

Tugging at an unwilling slipper Nan questioned, "I suppose you think you know jest all there is to know about singin'?"

"Well, hardly that, but I am going to do the best I can. I must; I need the money."

"You need money!" Nan glanced incredulously at the dainty costume of lace and spangles Dolly had disclosed by removing her cloak. A sudden qualm seized poor Nan. Pretty as she was, that seemed unimportant to her when confronted for the first time by that indefinable quality called style—she thought Dolly's gown must have cost hundreds of dollars, for Nan had never heard of bargain counters and their mysteries. As she limped to the piano, a dozen schemes were flitting through her head; but one hope upheld her—perhaps Dolly couldn't sing well, after all. Turning some time worn music, she asked, "Do you sing Cow songs?"

"Certainly not!" answered Dolly indignantly.

"Oh! I suppose you sing screechy then; would you like a drink before you begin? singin' is dry work."

"No, I thank you. I shall just run over one or two of my latest songs before the guests arrive; you needn't mind me, I can play for myself quite well;" and as Nan turned away in some disappointment, she added, "What a very unpleasant person!"

Then followed a bad half hour for poor Nan, for Dolly poured forth one after another all of the latest operatic successes. Nan's own bird notes were lovelier far, but she did not know that, and the trills and cadenzas executed by Dolly seemed little short of supernatural. When she finished and turned around Nan could only find voice to say weakly "have a drink now?"

An amused smile flickered over Dolly's face as she replied, "no, not any!"

"Oh, you needn't be so gosh-blamed stuck up," flashed Nan, "if you stay to this ball tonight you'll be glad enough of a bracer before you're two hours older."

A perceptible shudder passed through Dolly's slender frame. There was a long pause. In Nan's face there was growing a desperate purpose that made her pale; suddenly wheeling on her rival she began, "See here, yer don't understand, I admits yer sing like a hull dozen of waterfalls to onct, but I'se got to win that prize tonight an' I ask yer civil to let me do it pleasant like; but if not—" there was an ominous sound in the broken off sentence.

"The idea!" Dolly shrugged her shoulders.

"Yes, and it's my idea. Listen! My Bill got killed last night and I want the plunks to set 'em up good fer his last ride! Thar! now ye knows all my reasons whatever."

"Ah, I heard!" said Dolly softly, "so he was—"

"He was my Bill, and he was awful good to me—he never cuffed me once except when he got drunk on town rum. Bill was a good man!"

"What! cuffed you?"

"Yes—ain't yer never got cuffed?"

"Good gracious no!"

"Umph! yer don't know what life is. Say! yer never know how much yer can love a man 'till he licks yer once. Oh dear, this will be Bill's last ball."

"Do you mean to say—" Dolly was getting really frightened, "that they are going to leave the—the body in there while we are—are dancing in here?"

"Sure! Why, Bill's feelin's would be hurt if we didn't. He wuz all-fired fond of dancin' an' the gol-darned' man fer a jig that ever you see. Poor Bill!"

"But this is horrible."

"To know he's a layin' there so close will

give me courage for dancin' an' winnin' the prize."

"But it don't give me courage. It isn't fair! And I'm going to ask Mexican Joe to have it removed."

"Mexican Joe! He darsn't touch him. It lays twixt him an' Four Finger Pete as to who killed my Bill."

"Oh, it could not have been Joe,—he's so good and kind."

"Oh, ho! that's the way the wind blows—ah, but you're a skittish one not to say so before."

A sudden idea seemed to possess Nan, for whirling about in a sort of Indian dance she almost shouted:

"I've got some papers what Mexican Joe lost once; he set store by 'em I know. I kept 'em cause—well, Bill hed a grudge agin him somehow. I'll go fetch 'em an' give 'em to Joe if ye'll let me win the prize tonight. It was the dream of Bill's life to be buried in a biled shirt, an' to have me drive thro' town in a carriage cryin' behind a great big gol-darned long crape veil."

With flying hair and wildly panting bosom, Nan dashed out into the night, regardless of her white slippers that threatened to bring her to grief at every step. Five minutes later she returned to find Dolly and Mexican Joe in deep consultation. Thrusting the papers into Joe's hands, Nan said in voice hoarse with emotion:

"Thar! Joe, take em! ef 'twar wrong to keep 'em blame me, but don't lift yer tongue agin Bill."

One glance and Joe surprised his sweetheart by rushing up to Nan and kissing her heartily.

"Why, Nan, gal, these are worth a fortune, an' ef I'd had 'em even late as last week I'd a sold out my interest fer nigh onto nothin' like a plumb foot. They goes to show that I own half the big 'Lucky William Mine' and the as-says have just come in and, gals, I'm rich! rich, do you hear?"

Nan was awe stricken for a moment at the importance of the "papers" she had withheld.

"An' the prize tonight?"

"Shall be yours, Nan, and five hundred dollars added to it. Dolly is goin' to only sing for me henceforard whatever; eh, little sweet-heart?"

"God bless yer, Joe. I hope yer wedded bliss will ekal what Bill an' me sperienced. An'say, would yer Song Bird an' yerself like ter ride in the carriage with me when they plants Bill?"

And thus Nan showed her gratitude that Bill's dream could be fulfilled.

A Roman Scarf.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY WALTON RIGGS.

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LL Europe was astir with political intrigue and the corruptions that attend illy governed sections. Assassinations were not frequent although the authorities down to those of minor importance, were constantly receiving threatening letters, and since King Humbert's violent end

every country had its corps of detectives who were on the alert to find some clue to the location of the so-called anarchists.

One of the largest American dailies on whose staff I chanced to be at the time, thought by sending a representative incognito across the water some information might be gained which would change the popular idea that America harbored the instigators of all these tremendous life-extirminating plots. And I was chosen to go to Europe for three months and discover what I could in the way of making sensations for our paper.

I decided upon Paris to locate first, as that was the best city to find a bit of all classes. I found lodgings in the Latin Quarter and was unknown save as "the foreigner who writes."

The first night I was there I figured in a street brawl, in which I dragged a drunken brute away from a little street musician, whom he would have pounded into powder had her screams not alarmed me as I sat in my room three stories above. But such things occur so constantly that one has to learn to get acclimated, and never see and hear, or else be a self-appointed police.

State affairs at this time were very quiet, so quiet too, in fact, were all sorts of malicious doings, it seemed as though a storm must be pending, and it was into this very shower that I longed to plunge, and which eventually I barely escaped.

A few facts I did learn—that through some mysterious way messages of great political importance were daily passing into and through the city. All suspects were examined and occasionally in a woman's cloak, or in some part of a man's clothing was found a bit of lace or something he or she were trying to smuggle; but beyond this nothing written, and nothing could be told verbally because the conspiracy required information which could not be trusted to word of mouth. This I knew from the nature of affairs and my varied views and opin-

ions on the subject. I was daily communicating to the paper, extracts of which appeared in quotations in Paris dailies every now and then with the comment that "A clever man from America would in time do more to thwart the plans of these conspirators than a whole force of detectives."

I was gaining publicity that I did not want and could not afford to have in my line of business just at this time, and I sat in a little wine shop one evening thinking if it would not be better for me to leave Paris for a little while, when a most unusual incident happened. The musicians stopped playing for an intermission, while the little tambourine girl gathered up the few coins that were expected. When she came to my table she asked if she could not tell me my fortune, and being struck with the beauty of the girl I did not hesitate to let her hold my hand and examine my palm as long as she liked. Presently she began to speak and to my intense amusement, instead of predicting for me she said in a monotone:

"I am Mordante, a Hungarian gypsy, and I never forgive a wrong or forget a kindness, and Monsieur was good to me the night the ruffian tried to beat me. The Monsieur does not remember, but I have loved him and followed him for weeks since until I have learned what it is that will make him the most happy and

Just then a waiter who thought she was disturbing me, caught her roughly by the skin, and as he pushed her away she pulled a gorgeously colored silken scarf from her neck and tossing it over my head in a bantering, quizzish way, added,

"My heart is wrapped within its folds, Monsieur."

Eagerly I folded the scarf and put it in my inside pocket, nearest my heart, so that she might see, and with a nod she with her musician associates passed out into the night, to be eulogized only in a newspaper clipping the following morning:

"A gypsy girl, Mordante, probably one of the conspirators, shot at midnight for losing important and complicating papers, and if the right person only finds these he will have made his name and fortune."

Instinctively my hand went to my pocket that contained the scarf, and the crumpled paper as my hand closed around it told me the depth and value of the heart Mordante had given me.

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A GRAND INVENTION

The Romance of a Ruby.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES E. BARNES.

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THE gong sounded. Both sprang to the platform of the car, advancing up that double phalanx of spread newspapers, taking the only two vacant seats almost opposite each other. Dick wiped his forehead, unfolding his evening maze of scareheads and caricature, settling back in reverie over the Wall Street column.

Soon, however, the young broker became conscious of a keen eye fixed upon him. Over the carpet of pages he ventured a sly glance, then caught his breath. The hatband tightened about his moist brow. Above the roar of the up-moving train Dick heard the beatings of his own heart. Before him on the damp sheet there glowed the spirit-picture of a sweet-faced young woman in the simple gown of a dollar-drudge. He recognized it.

It was a sensitive, virginal type, quite scarlet with surprise, and she was breathing short and fast as with an inner tumult. The little form was bent slightly forward as when a bird takes flight from a ledge, the curling lashes down-dropped against the throbbing cheek. It was Alice.

Vividly that name conjured an eventful past. Dick closed his eyes and dreamed. He saw again in the clear morning light the old mansion of the crag-point overlooking the warm stretch of Champlain valley. There were winding ways through the wood, over trout-brooks spanned by rustic bridges, and torrents that tore over mossy cascades in apparent haste to reach the sleeping lake below. He recalled, too, the grizzled veteran, the man of millions, blustering, abrupt, piling shilling on shilling in his great granite quarries, and who looked with mingled indifference and contempt upon the promises of young dreamers in the warmth of love's first dawning.

And he recalled too the parting hour—it was Alice's eighteenth birthday—when she told him, as she had been instructed, that with all due regard for his friendly interest, she was destined for a higher career than one of such humble birth and prospects could vouchsafe her; and then he realized for the first time that he had been building high hopes upon illusions that were dispelled with the mere gesture of the parental hand. Without question or argument Dick Ellis had breathed a faint farewell, leaving her there upon the fallen beech-log, she hoping that he would turn about just once and give her a tender glance—a thing which he had never done to this day.

And he recalled how, after packing up his worldly effects in a pocket-parcel and shaking the dust of his native hamlet from his feet forever, he had come to a great metropolis to seek fortune, and how the first tidings of Alice overwhelmed him. She was in London, the guest of a West End society goddess, and betrothed to an Earl. From that day the fading image of Alice lost its power to cheer the battler against great odds even in adversity.

Then came the "black March" of '92 when fortunes went down like tin soldiers to the boom of the bean-cannon, and Wall Street was the abode of fiends. In one corner of a financial oracle were three lines that told of the utter rout and ruin of the quarry-king of the North, and his sudden death following this mortal blow to his pride. Later Dick heard of the broken engagement and the home-coming of the "belle of Champlain."

And now, here she was—the wife of an exalted peer, the leader of a charmed West End circle! No, no; merely another insignificant cog in the great money-mill of the metropolis, with stained fingers that showed familiarity with the ruling-pen and a general aspect of resignation to untoward destiny. A clay-faced Chinaman sat on her right, a Bohemian peasant-type crowding her left with a heavy basket. How tragically the dull insipidity of the dollar-drudges contrasted with the cameo features of that patrician type—the child of fortune to a higher manner born and so pitifully unequipped amid these surroundings so at variance with her early destiny! For once Dick Ellis forgot his eightths and sixteenths, his cable advices and his prophecies for the morrow. He was alive to the keenest sense of compassion which seemed nevertheless an ignoble emotion after the passing of the greater; yet was he prompted then and there to do what he had long ago vowed that he would never do so long as he lived. But then, since neither the Chinaman nor the peasant-woman vacated to give him the chance, how could he?

Another station and then they should part, perhaps for as many years again. How long and tenderly did the broker's keen eyes rest upon that pallid countenance dotted with scar-

Finding a Fortune and Founding a Fortune.

A Tramp's Luck and an Energetic Man's Purpose.

It is perhaps true as told that a tramp, searching a garbage barrel for scraps of refuse food, found a fortune in good United States currency. Such a thing may happen.

But the workman who gives up a steady occupation however unremunerative to hunt garbage barrels for a fortune will surely degenerate to a tramp. There is a difference between finding a fortune and founding a fortune. Few men chance upon fortunes. The fortunes we know about are not found but founded on a certain substantial basis. The nature of that basis of fortune is well set forth in the advice given by a successful merchant to a young man who asked, "What is the first requisite to making a fortune?" "The first requisite to making a fortune," said the rich man, "is health." "The idea that fortunes are made suggests toil and industry and skill. Nothing can be made without these. But a weak man cannot toil, and industry is incompatible with ill-health. If you want to be strong remember that all physical strength comes from food and that the amount of strength extracted from food depends upon the ability of the stomach to digest food and assimilate its nutrition. The man who takes care of his digestion is, in general, taking care of every other organ of his body."

SUCCESS OF THE STOMACH.

The merchant who gave the above opinion may not have been much of a physician but he was a good deal of a philosopher. He had seen men with success almost within the grasp, break down because of "stomach trouble." He had theorized the saying that the "weakest must go to the wall," into the saying that "the man with the weakest stomach must go to the wall" because no man is stronger than his stomach. The man who will learn this lesson of success has taken a great stride to his goal. Health is the first prerequisite of success and health in general means a sound stomach and a good digestion.

Look at the logic of the matter. Food is a man's life, his strength. Physical life is sustained by food. But the fact that a thing can be eaten doesn't make it food. Many a physician practising in the tenements of a city says of failing men or women, "What they need is nourishing food." Shipwrecked men eat scraps of leather, the bark of trees, anything to satisfy hunger. But this is not food in any true sense because it contains no nutrition. All food must be considered in relation to its nutritive value. When the stomach and the allied organs of digestion and nutrition are diseased the nutrition contained in food is imperfectly extracted and the body fails of nutrition adequate to its needs. The shipwrecked sailor living upon scraps in which there is no nutrition is on a level with the man who eats abundant nutritious food but whose stomach with its allied organs is diseased and therefore fails to extract from the food eaten the nutrition which is the body's need.

SOUND STOMACH, SOUND MAN.

That is almost an axiom. The man with a sound stomach and good digestion will in ordinary be a sound man, because the nutriment of food is the life and strength of heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and every organ of the body.

The first need of a weak man is to look after his stomach and his digestion. There is the common seat of physical weakness. How weak men have been made strong; strong of heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, and other organs by being made strong of stomach and strong of digestion has been told thousands of times by those who have used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

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let, those downcast orbs, that mass of wavy brown hair and tightly folded hands over the throbbing bosom! The gatekeeper mouthed something and the train slowed. Dick arose with a sigh, but not quickly enough. Alice had sprang before him as if in frantic haste to be well out of the one place in all the world where she wished she were not. Closely he followed, impelled as by a superior force. The crowd closed in behind, forcing him forward. At the door both paused, the man's bent form so close to hers now that she thought she felt his hot breath upon her throbbing neck, and it thrilled her. The train gave a sudden lurch. Up shot the thin hand to the strap above, missing it. Back she fell, and for one delicious moment that cluster of brown ringlets nestled as of yore against the broad shoulder, and his crimson cheek was buried in a maze of fluff and feathers. It was a revelation, like the quick intervention of Providence at the most critical pass in two destinies.

There was a sudden rally, without apologies. The gates opened and the young woman plunged from the car like a phantom, Dick fast in pursuit without knowing why. He was as one hypnotized. Was this indeed the very last time he should ever meet the former darling of his love? Would a nod, a smile be out of place—glance of the eye to let her know that all was forgiven? But then, why should he vouchsafe it, and how could he do so? Down the stair she led him a chase with that irregular tripping that recalled their mountain jaunts of old when hand in hand they roamed the forest like spirit-children bound in reciprocal devotion of innocence, too happy not to pay for it dearly in after years of disillusion and longing. What a rush of tender memories, vivid episodes and merry adventures—a pastoral drama of love and hope punctuated with laughter and song! How changed was it all now! And yet Dick found himself following whithersoever she led, even as of old, with almost no power within him to stay a step nor turn aside. Suddenly, just as he reached the street, the pursuer uttered a queer exclamation, clapping his hand to his throat with almost tragic motion. Too true! His ruby pin, once a crown jewel of an Indian rajah, presented to him by an English nobleman who had been his Wall Street client, and worth a thousand dollars if a farthing, was gone, and Alice was the thief!

There could be no doubt about it, for was

there not the evidence before him? Dick was

in a quandary, redoubling his steps. The perspiration gathered at the temples and trickled down his crimson cheek. What conspiracy of the guardian destinies had brought to pass this amazing episode, of all times and of all people the most dramatic? It was growing darker

now; and lest he lose sight of the runaway who turned not to vouchsafe him one encouraging look, Dick hurried forward almost at her very heels, keeping his eye upon her from a two-fold compunction now. What was he to do? Dared he steal up and recover his own, almost without her knowing? It seemed the only thing to do; and midway down the quite deserted block he quickened his step, then put forth his hand stealthily.

There was an angry command and a rough hand clapped upon him from behind. Dick struggled aside, and Alice turned with a startled look to discover her lover of old in the firm grip of a towering policeman.

"I admit the evidence," replied the embarrassed captive to the hard accusation. "But if you are looking for the real thief, there she is!"

In benumbing consternation the accused faced the pair, then with the rigidity of offended dignity she exclaimed, gathering closer, "What do you mean, sir? I—a thief?"

"Unconsciously," said the broker bowing, "but, nevertheless, if taking by force and stealth what does not belong to one constitutes a theft, I pronounce you guilty. Reach your hand around to your back hair, and you will find entangled there a ruby scarf pin worth a king's ransom to me. You see, when you fell against me in the 'El-car', the pin caught among the ringlets—"

"Oh, Dick, Dick! It is true. How wonderful!" Approaching in all contrition now, the gem gleaming its crimson rays like an inspired drop of blood from the palm of her gloved hand, she added, "It's all a mistake, officer. I am so sorry, Dick, really I am."

"You almost make me wish I were sorry myself, but truly I'm not. Officer, have a cigar. Oh, I say, Alice. Don't run away from me like that." The broker saluted the astonished man in blue and hurried on to the fleeting girl's side. "Alice, Alice!" he called softly. "I have so much to say to you—"

She turned upon him with her sweet face expressive of inner tumult. "What is it now?" she murmured in a voice tremulous with tears and just a little reproachful. "Have I stolen anything else of yours?"

"Yes, Alice you have," he answered solemnly, "and quite as innocently. But I fear the charming offence is outlawed, it happened so long ago, you know." He took her hand and drew it through his arm, crushing it close to him lest she resist. "At any rate, if all larcenies brought about such a grateful dénouement as this—" He paused, turning to glance courage and devotion once more into the downcast face. "Shall we go to the opera to-night, Alice, dear?"

The Rajah's ruby is a solitaire ring now.

Dr. McGregor and Henry LaCoste.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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INSPECTOR Harvey of the Bank Squad was leisurely returning to police headquarters one afternoon, when his attention was called to a well-dressed gentleman who had every appearance of being some prosperous business or professional man. While at another time the inspector might not have given the man more than a passing thought at most, on this particular day he glanced sharply at him, wheeled and followed, wondering the while what there was about the man that

interested him. Before the detective had gone three blocks the light came—the man he was following was a notorious bank robber and sneak thief, for whom the police and detective force of several cities had been searching a year or more.

Just as the man was entering a building the inspector laid his hand on his shoulder, his other hand seeking his own hip pocket, for Henry LaCoste was a desperate man, ready to murder the individual who stood between himself and liberty.

"LaCoste, you are wanted at headquarters," said the detective, tightening his grip on the man's shoulder.

At the first word the detained man leaped as though stung, but it was only for an instant.

"Errors will occur," said he, his voice admirably controlled, "my card, no doubt, will satisfy you that you are mistaken in your man, sir."

ALEXANDER J. McGREGOR, M. D.

64 LEXINGTON STREET,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

The above was the card which the suspected man politely tendered the inspector, the while smiling sarcastically. The detective, however



was far from being convinced that he had made a mistake. He believed that the man before him was the much wanted Henry LaCoste, and despite the vehement protests of the alleged physician he locked arms with him and started for headquarters.

"An arrest that does you credit, John," said the captain, the prisoner having been positively identified as the notorious bank robber Henry LaCoste. "I shall not forget the service."

The following day, however, a most astounding piece of news reached headquarters, something that caused the captain to color clear to the roots of his hair. A dispatch from Philadelphia stated that Henry LaCoste had died six months previous at a hospital in that city, that papers had come to light within a week through the hospital authorities, which proved conclusively that LaCoste would trouble the police no more.

The Captain of Police was convinced, but not Inspector Harvey, and though the prisoner was immediately released from custody, he made it his business to shadow the man he had arrested, and before a week was over he had learned much of his life, which, while proving that Dr. McGregor's life was not that of an upright man, did not establish that which the inspector believed—that a mistake had been made and that Henry LaCoste was still in the land of the living, passing to and fro among the people as a physician. He learned that Dr. McGregor had had an office on Lexington Street for several years, and this fact staggered the detective, positive as he was that he was right in the arrest which he had made.

The detective acknowledged that he was in error, but having learned somewhat of Dr. McGregor's life during that week, came to the conclusion that if the man could not be held as Henry LaCoste, he could be arrested as a criminal who was treading in Henry LaCoste's footsteps. A package of one hundred ten-dollar bills had mysteriously disappeared from the cashier's window at one of the leading banks.

No one saw the theft occur and the bank officials were at a loss to account for the disappearance of the money. The package was lying upon the counter within the wire grating and no person was seen to enter or leave the bank between the seeing and missing of the money by the cashier, save a depositor—Doctor Alexander McGregor. Other robberies occurred, some of them bearing all the thumbmarks of Henry LaCoste, and strangely enough Dr. McGregor was close at hand when these latter were committed. That the doctor was the thief, there was no doubt in the inspector's mind; the point was—to catch him in the act.

Dr. McGregor had a servant in his employ from whom the detective learned several facts connected with the physician. The detective contrived to see him alone one morning and the information that he gained, while interesting to the detective, shed little light on the case.

"The master is not the man I used to know," said Feeley, the servant, "the doctor is no longer here; some other man is in his place. Nothing is as it was then."

"I do not understand you," said the detective, "what do you mean when you say that somebody else is here in the doctor's place."

"I mean what I say," replied Feeley, "something strange, something I can't describe, happened here some six months since. I was through with my work and had gone to my room one night feeling at peace with the world. Just as the clocks were striking twelve I heard a slight sound in the hall, and the next instant the laboratory door was softly opened and closed again. The same sound I have heard hundreds of times at all hours of the night, but somehow on this particular night I felt a cold shiver go over me and I sat up in bed listening. It was not long before I heard another sound that stirred me as nothing had in the past. A chair was tipped over and I heard master's voice calling as though in great distress. Not stopping to dress I rushed from my room, merely carrying a stove poker, and as I bounded over the stairs I heard master's voice again as though pleading with some one to leave him alone. Not stopping to knock I made bold to enter the room and there found master resting against the fireplace, at least I thought it was master, until he spoke to me. 'Keep out of this room in the future,' said he, advancing to meet me, and frightened by his looks I hurried away."

"The following day this strange man who had taken master's place, who looked like master, but did not talk or act like him, refused to see any of the patients that came to the office, and from morning till night he sat there by the fire, shaking and shivering, cursing me whenever I came near."

"Does this man seem to be well supplied with money?" asked the detective, "and does he settle with you as well as your old master?"

"Oh, yes, he always has money, far more than the master I used to know; rolls of bills, and he thinks nothing of slipping an extra five dollars into my hand of time when he is feeling good-natured, but with it all, I would sooner know one little finger of my old master, than have things as they are."

From the day of this interview, with the servant, the inspector shadowed his man more closely than ever, and the longer he followed him, the more he was convinced that however mistaken he was at the start, he would eventually round up a rogue of the first water.

Finally things came to a head. A wealthy man had been held up not ten rods from Doctor McGregor's office, and resisting, was murdered. The detective was several blocks away, but arrived on the scene in time to see the assassin disappear through the door of Doctor McGregor's office.

One glance at the prostrate figure upon the sidewalk told the inspector that the man was dead, a savage knife-thrust having done the work. The first thing to accomplish was the arrest of the murderer before he had an opportunity to escape. It would be dangerous business and the inspector knew enough of desperate men to appreciate his peril, but the detective was not the man to flinch, and without hesitation he ran to the rear of the house, aroused Feeley, who was dozing over the fire, and pressed on through the house to the laboratory, followed closely by the servant.

Within the laboratory some one was moving, presumably the murderer, and throwing open the door, the detective advanced with drawn revolver to arrest his man.

With a howl of rage the assassin sprang at the detective, a knife flashing in his right hand. A flash and report from the detective's revolver was the answer, and the man dropped in his tracks.

Summoning Feeley to his assistance, the detective with some difficulty carried the wounded man across the room to the lounge, and having dispatched the servant for a physi-

cian, turned his attention to the man he had shot, for in the excitement of the moment he had scarcely learned whether the man was dead or alive. A brief examination, however, convinced him that though the man was alive, death was not far away.

Suddenly the wounded man moved convulsively, opened his eyes and looked questioningly about the room and at the detective, as though unable to understand what had occurred. At the same time the detective became aware of a wonderful change in those windows of the soul, the eyes. That uneasy, sly and finally murderous gleam had disappeared, and in its place an eye clear and kindly, met the detective's. Then, too, it seemed as though the lines of his face were undergoing a change, for when Feeley returned with a doctor it were as though another had changed places with the wounded man, and Feeley's exclamation of astonishment and delight showed that the detective was not alone in observing this.

"My master! My master has returned!" said Feeley, dropping by the wounded man's side, "come back to die," he added as he understood the meaning of the terrible pallor that had overspread the face.

"Sir," said the dying man, addressing the detective, "I desire to say a few words before it is too late in reference to a remarkable experience that it was my misfortune to go through some months since."

"I was seated in my laboratory here one evening, I think it was near the hour of twelve, and was deep in thought over a critical case which I had in mind, when I was aroused by a hand being laid upon my shoulder. Supposing that it was Feeley, here, I turned to ask him what he desired. What was my astonishment, and indeed, horror, to find myself face to face with an uncanny visitor who stood in threatening manner over me. I sprang to my feet and demanded the intruder's business.

"No word was spoken, but it seemed as though the unearthly being were laying hold of me, clutching me by the throat, choking and tearing me to pieces. The struggle must have created some audible disturbance, for Feeley suddenly rushed into the room. He came too late, however, for the strange being, I might name him, for I know his name only too well, was Henry LaCoste, who had died in the flesh that very night, had complete possession of me, and I sternly ordered him out of the room.

"It seemed as though a spirit of unrest and desire for the living had possession of me from that day. I was no longer Doctor McGregor, but rather, Henry LaCoste, and I lived even as LaCoste, the bank robber and sneak thief had lived.

"I can say little more, for I feel my strength going and all will soon be over, only this, that I am convinced that naturally I bore a remarkable resemblance to LaCoste, and that when his spirit took possession of me, I took on his voice, his manner of living, and in a word his complete personality. From that day till the moment I was cut down, here in this room, I was no longer Doctor McGregor, but as I said before, LaCoste. But with the approach of death I find that the being that has dominated me has departed. —"

For a moment the dying man was silent, as though unable to complete the sentence he was about to utter.

"Thomas," said he at length, turning to Feeley, "remember—remember me—as—"

Death was hovering very closely above its victim, "as Doctor McGregor."

An Unexpected Listener.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ELLA F. MOSBY.

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THE thrilling adventure which my story relates, happened to Mary Page during her second year as a Missionary in the East. It was a hot day; not a breath stirred the great palms in the Sultan's gardens. Mary had been teaching with her father all the morning at the Mission-House and as she sat down in the little American rocking chair that the native children all loved to ride so soon as they grew bold enough to venture, a pang of acute loneliness filled her eyes with burning tears. She could see so clearly

ly the brook that ran from the upland pastures, dewy and fresh, down through the Long Meadow, and hear the song sparrow singing his ecstatic melody.

Her little room was bare and hot, whitewashed for sanitary reasons, the glare burnt her eyes, even though the blinds were down except on the side next to the royal garden. She loved to see the feathery fronds of the palms and the top of the peepul-tree there and to hear the distant splash of the royal fountains. There was a little door in the wall and often the children of the Sultan's household would be allowed to come with their obsequious dark attendants to the residence of the Missionary whose daughter was permitted to give two of the younger boys lessons in English, and was sometimes summoned to the women's apartments in the palace when they grew weary of their more familiar amusements. The children liked her music for "Mem Sahib Miriam" had a violin of a sweet and mellow tone as if many and many a sunny noon had given it sweetness, and she could play soft and wistful lullabies and slumber-songs upon it. She loved the religious music of Handel and Haydn and many a lovely air sounded softly in the little bare room, while the dark children

and their slaves squatting on cushions or on the floor, listened with wide-open eyes and gleaming white teeth.

There was one little boy, Lalli, a beautiful child but not strong, whose litter had been thrown down in some panic during a pilgrimage to a famous shrine, and who had been badly hurt in the crush that ensued. He could not walk yet, but Dr. Page, at once missionary and physician had him in his care by the especial favor of the Sultan, and hoped much to effect a final cure. He had had a pair of tiny crutches made for the little prince, which he was beginning to use with much dexterity. Lalli was fond of power and self-indulgent, but he was affectionate, and had a wonderful sensibility to music. However weary Mary was, she would always play for him and try to solace his hours of suffering, and the child had more than once stolen away from his nurses and come to seek her.

A day or two ago an embassy had arrived from one of the "little kings of the East" some royal or sultan of a tiny domain. Mary had been kept awake by the barbaric music of the processions, the buzzing, squeaky, drumming noise the natives, like children delighted with a clatter, call music, and with this mingled deep growls from the animals in two or three strong cages, fastened on bullock carts—the reluctant gift of the jungle to the court. For an hour or so after the torches, musicians and carts had vanished, she heard the *thud, thud*, of bare feet or the slide of sandals on the streets, and the excited chattering of the natives, pleased with the show. Lalli had not been to see her since. Doubtless he had received special gifts, for his mother was known to be a present favorite. However, he could not long absent himself from the violin.

Mary smiled as she rose and taking down the violin from its place on the wall, began to play a cradle hymn that she had heard her own mother sing often and often in the twilight, a simple melody, but it expressed the longing of a simple and humble soul after the higher things of eternal life, a melody that was half a prayer. Her arm fell to her side and she stood in a reverie, half sad, half sweet, when a sudden sound made her start with terror. She had left the low window open next to the gardens, and what she heard was the low, frightened cry of a child and the click, click of Lalli's crutches. He was on the window-ledge, and by the aid of one crutch sprang inside. He made one attempt to draw close and fasten the blind, but it was in vain, and he caught Mary's dress with one trembling hand, gazing terrified over his shoulder as if at something that pursued him.

Mary instinctively thrust him behind her for protection, and at the same moment the opening was darkened and with a low growl a striped and tawny animal, the Royal Tiger sent to the Sultan and escaped from its cage, leaped into the place the boy had occupied the instant before.

He was a beautiful creature, rich in color, graceful and flexible in movement and with a noiseless step as if "shod with silence." His fiery eyes were wide open and round, not contracted into narrow slits like the green eyes of our household cats in the light.

Mary's violin was still in her hand, held against her shoulder in a half-caressing attitude. She remembered having read of the strange influence of music over beasts and as the tiger opened its lips in a savage snarl at Lalli's cry, she drew the bow slowly across the strings and began playing a low, soft slumber song.

The tiger slowly descended to the floor, and as Mary played, walking to and fro, she contrived to keep Lalli on the farther side, and to move nearer and nearer the door. The tiger followed her, pacing slowly and at times purring and rubbing his great head, in evidence of his pleasure, against the folds of her dress.

Mary still played—played lullabies, hymns, melodies of tender and soothing sweetness. She dared not turn her head but she heard the door open and close—Lalli was safe! God be thanked!—but how long could she continue this? Her arm ached, her head whirled, but at every sign of relaxation on her part the tiger moved more restlessly. Suddenly the door burst open, something whizzed through the air and she fell back in a dead faint just as the native keepers, summoned by Lalli, secured the power of the lasso, struggling with his lasso and growling furiously.

Mary had played before many a "select audience" before, but never had known such approval as her unexpected listener, the Royal Bengal Tiger from the Sultan's gardens, had vouchsafed her.

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DR. F. G. KINSMAN, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Around About Salem.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8.)

the ministers of Salem was called, and the children were declared to be under the influence of witchcraft. A poor, bedridden old woman named Osborn and another poor old body named Sarah Good, who was a kind of a vagrant, were accused of having bewitched the children and the poor creatures were hanged for the crime the following July. But this did not cure the "afflicted children," who continued to scream without apparent cause and do all sorts of strange things. Urged to name those who had bewitched them they named persons of great prominence and the highest character. Among those named by the children was Dame Martha Corey, an elderly woman, the wife of Giles Corey, one of the most prominent men in Salem. She had been outspoken in her denunciation of the folly of anyone believing in anything so absurd as witchcraft, and this had caused her to be regarded with much disfavor and also with suspicion. She was promptly arrested when the "afflicted children" accused her of having bewitched them, and when brought into the presence of the children they immediately began to scream as if in great agony, as well they might had they had any realizing sense of what they were bringing upon the good woman. Martha Corey was tried, and even her own husband gave evidence that helped to condemn her. She was executed and, later, her husband was arrested for witchcraft and he too suffered death. Eight persons were executed on Gallows Hill one September day in the year 1692, but we are glad to record that they were the last persons executed in the colony, although others were arrested and thrown into prison. The craze lasted for about six months, but during that short time hundreds of persons were thrown into jail and unspeakable suffering was caused in many homes.

The strange conduct of the two little girls who had caused so many arrests was still, in the minds of many, unaccounted for, but it is now supposed that it was a sort of hysteria caused by nervousness and excitement. Rumors of witchcraft were afloat and the children had heard their elders talking of the strange things done by those supposed to be bewitched. It is probable that the nervous and excited children had lain awake nights thinking of all they had heard, and they no doubt thought they were really bewitched. It is to the credit of some of those who were the most pronounced believers in the delusion that they afterward confessed publicly their profound regret for any part that they had had in the conviction of the supposed witches, and they sincerely mourned the lamentable results of their folly.

There is much to be recorded to the credit of Salem. None of the people were more patriotic or courageous than were the people of Salem in the time of the Revolution. They vigorously opposed the unjust Stamp Act, and they were among the first to make armed resistance against the British government when the injustice and oppression of that government became unbearable. The old town has been visited by Washington, Lafayette and many of the most distinguished persons connected with American history.

The town has been the home of many of the most distinguished literary men of America. Prescott, the historian, Judge Story and his son the poet and sculptor, lived in Salem, and one may see here the house in which Nathaniel Hawthorne was born, and the house in which his wife lived before her marriage, the house in which he wrote his most famous book, the "House of the Seven Gables" that gave the title to one of his stories, and the custom house in which he was employed while he was writing that book.

One may see the house in which Hawthorne's mother lived when she became a widow with several little children. It was one of the rooms of this house that Hawthorne wrote in after years: "If ever I should have a biographer, he ought to make great mention of this chamber in my memoirs, because so much of my lonely youth wasted here, and here my mind and character were formed; and here I have been glad and hopeful, and here I have been despondent. And here I sat a long, long time, waiting patiently for the world to know me, and sometimes wondering why it did not know me sooner, or whether it would ever know me at all—at least until I were in my grave. By and by the world found me out in my lonely chamber, and called me forth, not indeed, with a loud roar of acclamation, but rather with a still, small voice, and forth I went, but found nothing in the world that I thought preferable to my old solitude."

The museums of Salem are rich in relics of bygone days, and there is no town in America in which the visitor, young or old, can spend a day with greater interest or profit. One must be charmed with the quaintness that still lingers in the older parts of the town, and with the wonderful beauty of the great Atlantic as seen from Salem's rocky shores.

When is a President Elected?

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE newspapers all said that William McKinley was re-elected president of the United States last November. Was this really so? Few people stop to think of, even if they know anything about, the complicated machinery which really elects the president of this country.

What were really elected in November were the electors who are to elect the president. These men for each state are equal in number, as most persons know, to the number of representatives and senators which that state has in Congress. That is, the great state of New York has thirty-four congressmen and two senators, and hence has thirty-six electors in the electoral college, as the body is called which elects the chief magistrate. A state which has only one congressman has three electors, one for that official and one for each of its two senators.

The way in which these electors shall vote has been carefully directed by the Constitution. It is also stipulated that no senator, or congressman, or person holding a position of trust or profit under the United States government can be chosen as an elector.

These electors meet in their own states and vote for president and vice president there. The Constitution prescribes that at least one of the men they vote for shall not live in the same state as the men voting. This removes the possibility of having the president and vice president come from the same state. They vote by ballot, and after they have voted must make lists of the result of the votes. These lists must be signed, sealed and disposed of as follows:

The electors must make three of these lists, which are all signed and certified to, and then sealed up separately. The electors then choose one of their number who is to travel to Washington and in person deliver one of the lists to the President of the Senate. The second list is sent to the same official through the regular channels of the Post Office, and the third is delivered to the judge of the district in which the electors meet. Being appointed messenger to carry the vote to the President of the Senate is no empty honor, since the man who carries it receives "twenty-five cents for every mile of the estimated distance by the most usual road from the place of meeting of the electors to the seat of government of the United States." The bill of the men who bring the votes of Washington and Oregon is no small one, while if the time ever comes that Alaska, the Sandwich Islands and the Philippines are entitled to representation, even much greater amounts will be required.

The law provides that the electors must meet and vote on the second Monday in January following their appointment by the people at what is usually known as the "November presidential election." The law also provides that Congress must be in session on the second Wednesday in February following this meeting of the electors. The members of the Senate and the House of Representatives meet together on that day, at 1 P. M., in the hall of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate presides over this union meeting. Two tellers are appointed on behalf of each branch of Congress. The President of the Senate opens all of the returns which have been brought to him and hands the papers to these four tellers. They arrange the papers in alphabetical order, so that the count will begin with letter A. The tellers then read the lists aloud and make a report to the presiding officer of the results. This officer then declares who is elected president and vice president of the United States.

Usually, of course, this counting in Washington is only a cut-and-dried affair, but this has not always been the case.

Previous to 1804 the electors voted or two persons as candidates for president. The one who received the highest number of votes became president, and the one who had the second highest number became vice president. In 1804 the Constitution was amended so that the electors voted for both of the officers separately.

The Constitution provides that if the electors do not succeed in electing a candidate, the election passes into Congress. In 1824 there was no choice and the House of Representatives elected Adams. Various other complications have arisen at different times. In 1817 objection was made to admitting the vote of the State of Indiana, on the ground that this was not a state at the time the electors were chosen, although afterwards becoming so. The vote was finally admitted. In 1857 the vote of Wisconsin was objected to because on account of a violent snow storm in that state the election was held on the day following the one appointed by law. In this case, also, the vote was finally admitted. This was when Buchanan was a candidate.

In 1872, General Grant and Horace Greely were the candidates. Greely died before the time in 1873 when the votes were to be counted, and objection was made to counting the votes cast for him on this account. At that time the Senate and the House disagreed as to which course was the right one to follow in this matter.

The closest contest in the history of the country was in 1876, when Hayes and Tilden were the candidates. There was a dispute over the votes of Florida, Louisiana, Oregon and South Carolina. The dispute was referred by Congress to an electoral commission of eight republicans and seven democrats, which by a strict party vote declared all of the doubtful states republican. The closeness of the contest can be seen from the fact that this decision gave Hayes only 185 votes while Tilden had 184. Every one who remembers the state of uncertainty under which the country labored through all the long winter while this contest was being decided, will rejoice that the election just passed was so conclusive that the matter was settled once for all.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrah, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 847 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

FREE KIDNEY CURE

Cures every disorder of the Kidneys, Lame Back, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Bladder Troubles and even the hopeless cases of Bright's Disease and Diabetes. Trial packages of this remarkable remedy are now being mailed free to every sufferer sending name and address to the Pennsylvanian Herbal Remedy Co., 983 Second National Bank Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. Do not delay but write to day. It may save your life.

\$5.00 DUEBER For our magnificently engraved double hunting case watch of Gold alloy with extra 14 karat gold plate, equal in appearance to any \$5 dollar watch. Movement is the best make, fully jeweled, duplex escapement, quick train, pas pinion, accurately regulated and adjusted with **20 YEAR GUARANTEE**. Railroad men all over the country buy this watch on account of its durability and timekeeping qualities. Our factory price \$42.00 per doz. for 100 doz. we will send you one sample for free inspection. If fully satisfied pay **\$3.50** and express charges, otherwise not one cent. State nearest express office, and if Ladies' or Gentlemen's watch. **FREE** a handsome Chain and Charm worth \$1 with every Watch Catalogue free. Exclusively Watch Co., 66 Central Bank Bldg., Chicago.



Any One Can Easily Earn

an Upholstered Morris Reclining Chair; a set of three Austrian Hand-painted Vases; two pairs of Royal

Lace Parlor Curtains, newest design, for selling our Aluminum Thimbles. There is no chance or deception about this advertisement. We speak the truth and guarantee to do just as we say. **We don't ask a cent.** We are determined to introduce our thimbles into every family, and every person answering this advertisement, who will sell only 30 Thimbles, will receive our generous offer of a Handsome Upholstered Morris Chair, and a set of three, new design, Austrian Hand-painted Vases, and two pairs of Royal Lace Parlor Curtains, new design, three yards long, 30 inches wide, with three of our Sash Curtains, usual size, which we give **absolutely free** for selling only 30 Thimbles at 5 cents each. Send name, post-office address, and nearest express or freight depot, and we will send you the Thimbles. When sold you send us the \$1.50, and we **guarantee** that if you comply with the offer we shall send you with the three Sash Curtains, the Upholstered Morris Chair and the three Austrian Hand-painted Vases will be given **absolutely free**.

This is a rare chance for ladies to beautify their homes with useful and beautiful articles, from an old and reliable concern, noted for square and honest dealings. If you comply with the offer we shall send you, the Chair and Vases will be given free. This is a handsome and comfortable Chair, made of polished antique oak or mahogany. It is covered with high-grade velour, with handsome patterns, in light, dark or medium red, green or brown. The seat cushion is 21 x 21 inches, and the back 20 x 30 inches, and is an all-wool-filled cushion (not stuffed with cheap excelsior). The back is adjustable to four positions; carefully packed and shipped from factory by freight to your address. The Vases are gems. Any newspaper will tell you that we are reliable. Don't wait. Write to-day and get the premiums quick.

THE DR. ABBOTT CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 203, No. 40 West 22d St., New York City.

Write for Corn Planter Catalogue.

\$16.95 BEST CORN PLANTER MADE **SEND NO MONEY** if you live in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois or Kentucky (if in any other state send \$1.00), we will send you this **HIGH GRADE TWO-HORSE CORN PLANTER** direct from the factory in central Ohio by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory and exactly as represented, the equal of any corn planter made, regardless of price, and one-half the price charged by your dealer at home, then pay the freight agent **Our Special Offer Price, \$16.95** and freight charges. The corn planter weighs 400 pounds, and the freight will average for each 500 miles about \$2.00. AT \$16.95 we furnish this Two-Horse Corn Planter.

The Check Rower is the highest grade made, made of few parts, not complicated. One side is always at rest. Stroke positive every time button passes through fork. Forks are made of soft center steel, carefully hardened, and are wide enough apart to prevent kinks in wire from making a stroke. The wire can be released by the driver pulling a cord without leaving seat. The wire is of finest quality, and with ordinary care will last many years.

OUR SPECIAL \$16.95 AND \$23.85 PRICES are based on the actual cost to produce our factory in central Ohio, with our one small profit added, less than dealers can buy in carload lots.

THIS TWO-HORSE CORN PLANTER is put out under our binding guarantee as the highest grade corn planter made. Made of the very best material that can be procured and will outwear any other two-horse corn planter made. It is a full complement planter. Can be used either on a hand drop drill or a check rower. The planter is a two-horse planter. The frame is coupled close, giving the driver full and easy control. The front lever is attached to the two hounds which are placed at an equal distance from the runners, so that both runners are forced into the soil at equal depth. The drill is adjusted to different positions by changing the chain tension on different size sprocket wheels on the rear axle without changing plates. The drop is simple and sure. The succeeding hills drop down separate channels, and are held at the heel of the runner, ready for prompt deposit when check rower is operated. Combination hand and foot lever is furnished, so that the planter can be rigidly set to the desired depth, or can be run flexibly and under easy control of the driver's feet, allowing him the full use of his hands for taking care of team. **THIS IS THE VERY LATEST FOR 1901.** It embodies all the latest improvements of all strictly high grade planters, with the defects of none. For One-Horse Corn Planters at \$7.95 and upwards, write **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

FITS I wish every person in the U. S. suffering with **FITS, EPILEPSY OR FALLING SICKNESS** to send for one of my large-sized 16-ounce bottles **FREE.** DR. F. E. GRANT, Dept. 54, Kansas City, Mo.

SEND NO MONEY



If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, cut this ad out and send to us and we will send to you this high grade violin, express free. **WE SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$3.25** and express charges, will average about 50 cents for 500 miles.

THIS IS A GENUINE STRADIVARIUS MODEL VIOLIN, made of old wood, with a fine and strong top of seasoned pine, especially selected for violin. Edges inlay with pearl, best quality ebony finish trimmings, beautifully finished, highly polished and splendid tone quality. Comes complete with a genuine Brasilwood bow, one extra set of strings, well made case, large piece of rosin and one of the best instruction books published. **TEACHES ANYONE HOW TO PLAY.**

ONE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. You can use the instrument in your own home, and if you have any cause whatever to be dissatisfied with it, you may return it to us at our expense and we will refund your money. **ORDER IMMEDIATELY.** Such a violin as this cannot be bought elsewhere under \$8.00. Write for **FREE Musical Instrument, Piano and Organ Catalogue.** **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.**

PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS entirely removed in 2 to 6 days. Never fails. Skin left soft, clean and healthy. Perfectly harmless. Send 25 cts. Blue Mt. Drug Co., Dept. 3, Walla Walla, Wash.

WE SELL FIREPROOF IRON SAFES with combination locks at from \$6.25 for a 100-pound safe, to \$85.00 for a 3,000-pound, four door safe bank safe. **BIG 1,000-POUND STORE OR OFFICE SAFE** for \$24.75. We ship to anyone to examine before paying. Write for **Free Safe Catalogue.** Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

Tottering

China.

The Chinese Boxes have caused a heap of trouble to poor old China with its five hundred Million Souls. Uncle Sam is on the inside, however, and now leads the world both in diplomacy and Gunboats. A cute Yankee has devised a happy SAN TOY Comic figure from the idea of Cain's fall. It is called **The Dying Chinese.** It is made of wood and is about the size of a small child. The Chinese man with his long, braidy queue. His head is made of rubber which is inflated at the top until it swells and swells until he begins to sing a real Chinese chant, but as his wind gets short he sort of grunts—then his head is reduced in size resembling a small orange and he looks like children's as boy say, final and pinched with a dying race. So China in spite of its great two-thousand-year old wall to the wall with the wall. It is a funny, yes, awful, awful **FUNNY TOY** yet so symbolic of history. Get one, or even better dozen and amuse yourself, your friends and your neighbors as you can make lots of money selling them too. We send one free with a \$6.00 subscription to our bright monthly for \$2.00 for a full year. **SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE.** **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.**

CHINA'S FALL AND SQUALL. When he totters, then with a weird shriek over his goes and falls with a long drawn squall and a pinched up agonized face, symbolic of a dying race. So China in spite of its great two-thousand-year old wall to the wall with the wall. It is a funny, yes, awful, awful **FUNNY TOY** yet so symbolic of history. Get one, or even better dozen and amuse yourself, your friends and your neighbors as you can make lots of money selling them too. We send one free with a \$6.00 subscription to our bright monthly for \$2.00 for a full year. **SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE.** **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.**

PEARL HANDLE KNIFE



Boys and Girls can get this beautiful Pearl Handle Pocket Knife absolutely **FREE** for selling only four boxes of our Great Cold and Headache Tablets at 25 cents a box. Write today and we will send the Tablets by mail postpaid, when we will send us the money (\$1.00) and we will give you this strong and durable Pocket Knife which has four imported steel blades. Pearl Handle is inlaid in mother of pearls and is fully waisted. A perfect beauty. Address, **NATIONAL MEDICINE CO., KNIFE DEPT., 3 B, NEW HAVEN, CT.**

Get your order in early they sell quick. Address, **GOLDEN MOMENTS, BOX V, AUGUSTA, MAINE.**

Cupid in Colors.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN the eastern district of Brooklyn N. Y., is one of the largest valentine factories in the world; from here every year millions of valentines are sent out for sale all over the world, though ninety-nine and one-half per cent of them are used here in this country. And each February approximately \$3000.00, and as much more for postage are spent on these little paper trifles. Some are of paper, some of satin, and all with gaudy pictures of distorted cupids or other sentimental devices.

In this factory the busiest month is January, but 400 girls and men are employed the entire year in making these things which are of value only for one day.

There are three classes, therefore three departments; lace, novelty and comic.

In the lace-room is a unique machine; a cylinder containing the design is inserted under which passes the paper which is cut and embossed as it revolves. The operator pulls out these strips of lace paper by the yard which are then cut into sections and pasted on cards. There are anywhere from 100 to 200 different designs ranging in price from \$0.02 to \$0.50.

The novelty-room employs 30 or 40 girls and often 20 different hands are employed in the manufacture of one valentine. These novelties are more expensive than the lace-paper, being made of silk, satin or celluloid; of these there are 100 different kinds varying from \$5.00 to \$50.00. Last year and the year before there were thousands made to be sent to Cuba, Porto Rico and to the Philippines.

The third variety, comic, is to the refined mind a waste of money. Yet it is computed that 20,000,000 of them are sent annually.

In the department for making these there are a number of presses where thousands of the 500 different designs are printed each hour.

There are two men employed in designing them. The artist is a magazine illustrator, and a Harvard College man makes the verses to go under their flashy pictures.

Comics are most popular in the west. The sale in New England and the south being comparatively small.

The trans-continental freight is so high that commerce for San Francisco is shipped by sailing vessels around Cape Horn, from four to six months ahead of time. These "pennydreadfuls" are comical only to the sender, and to the recipient only offensive.

If we would remember the 14th of February in any way—out of respect to Saint Valentine let us distribute that day, instead of these vulgar paper trifles, words of good-will, that there may be more rather than less sunshine.

The Salt Fish Industry.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

GLOUCESTER! Known from one end of the earth to the other for its fishing industries. A city of brine and salt. Its odor reaches the nostrils ere the city limits are touched, and the word Gloucester springs unbidden to the lips of the stranger. The writer spent a day recently among the fish-houses and wharves that form an almost unbroken line along the water front, and through the courtesy of several merchants gained an excellent idea of the manner in which the salt fish business is carried on today.

I learned that most of the firms engaged in the curing of fish own from three to a dozen vessels which constantly ply between the port and the fishing-grounds. There are the "shackers," or hand-line, those carrying trawls and the "bankers." The first two make trips of from three to four weeks and carry ice, while the latter are gone from three to six months and carry salt.

It is customary aboard the "shackers" to cut the tongues from the fish as fast as they are caught, thus bleeding them and at the same time furnishing a convenient means of keeping account of each man's catch. These fish are considered the finest brought in, the bleeding producing a whiter fish.

The principal fish brought into Gloucester are cod, haddock, hake, pollack, cusk, mackerel, halibut and herring. Of these, the first five are cured in two ways—dry salted and pickled.

The dry salted come in all salted; are weighed and piled in a high pile. As soon as convenient they are placed upon the flakes, (long racks) and covered with cotton cloth, held by frames about a foot from the fish, thus protecting them from the direct rays of the sun; here they remain from two to four days, according to the weather conditions. The fish are next wheeled under cover and piled up again where they sweat for forty-eight hours, after which they are placed again upon the flakes and aired for another day; they are then ready for the market.

The pickled cured are weighed as soon as they are landed at the wharf and placed in large boxes where they are washed. They are next packed in hogsheads or "butts" as the fishermen term them, first a layer of fish and then a layer of salt; twenty-four hours later these hogsheads are full of strong brine, the fish making its own brine. The fish remain in this pickle from ten days to five months, according to the wants of the firm. When it is deemed advisable to complete the curing they are taken out of the brine and piled up for forty-eight hours. From one to two days on the flakes completes the process and this kind is ready for shipment.

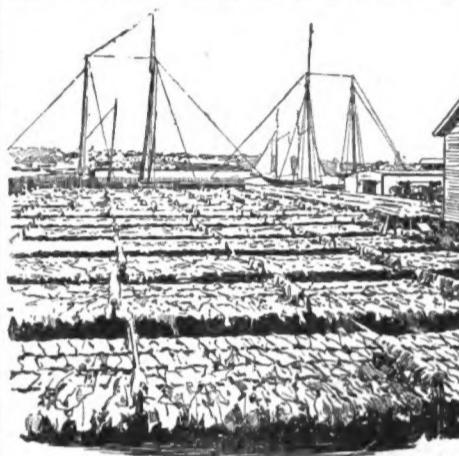
Halibut are brought in fresh, the long bone cut out, and the sides intended for smoking placed in pickle where they remain from ten days to a fortnight. These strips are hung in the smoke-house and a fire of chips and sawdust produces a dense smoke which cures the halibut in from two to four days.

Mackerel are generally seined today. A school of the fish is sighted and a net perhaps two hundred and twenty-five fathoms long and one hundred fathoms deep is placed about it. Sometimes the fish are too quick for the fishermen and escape before the net can be closed up; at other times a catch is made amounting to several hundred barrels. The mackerel are split down the back and salted in barrels in much the same manner as the fish already described.

Herring are both smoked and salted, the process being much the same as that already described relating to halibut and mackerel, save that in both cases they are cured whole.

Within a few years an extensive business has grown up hand in hand with the salt fish industry; I refer to the preparing of boneless fish. The fish comes to the firm pickled cured, only this kind being suitable for this purpose. Each fish is skinned and the backbone removed, after which the fins are pulled out, and if the fish is to be sold under the head of absolutely boneless fish, short bones that were not removed at first are cut out. A machine cuts the fish up into oblong strips and these pieces are sent to a room where women and girls pack it into iron moulds, and a pressure of over a ton produces a compact brick of one, two or three pounds weight, as the case may be. It is then packed in boxes and shipped.

It is not many years since the government paid a bounty to every man that shipped aboard a fishing vessel for a period of four months or more, but though this has been done away with, there is little difficulty experienced in securing men to make up a crew. The business is a dangerous one and full of hardships, but going as the men do on shares, the chance of earning large dividends is too much for the fisherman, and whatever the dangers he laughs



UPON THE FLAKES.

at them and is off. It is a noteworthy fact that the rank and file of the fish merchants of Gloucester have followed the sea in earlier years.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.



PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM.

Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes luxuriant growth. Never fails to restore gray hair to its youthful color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.



Reversible LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical. Made of fine cloth, finished in pure starch, and exactly resemble fashionable linen goods. **No Laundry Work**. When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25cts. By mail, 30cts. Send 6cts. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style. REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.



\$50 A Week

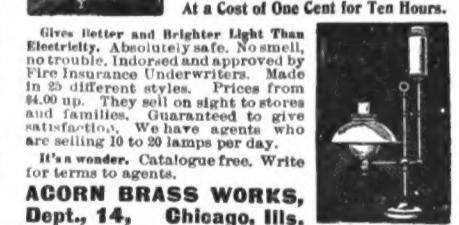
And Expenses Made By Live Agents Selling

THE ACORN LAMP

Underneath & overhead generators.

MAKES ITS OWN GAS

At a Cost of One Cent for Ten Hours.



BUYS A REGU- LAR \$15.00 FEED CUTTER SEND NO MONEY if you live within 500 miles of Chicago, (If further send \$1.00). Cut this ad, out and send to us, and we will send you this FEED CUTTER by freight C. O. D., subject to examination, you can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our **SPECIAL PRICE OF \$6.98** and freight charges, less \$1.00 if sent with order. The cutter weighs 165 lbs., and the freight will average about 75 cents for each 500 miles. **THIS IS THE CELEBRATED DAILEY CUTTER** for cutting hay, straw or fodder. The frame is heavy, made of solid seasoned hard wood, well finished. Comes with 11½-inch genuine Enger steel knife, made with improved adjustment to cut 1, 1½ or 2 inches; malleable hopper, extra heavy balance wheel, perfect adjustment, the lightest running, largest capacity, and most durable 165-pound cutter ever made. **WRITE FOR CATALOGUE OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.** Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.



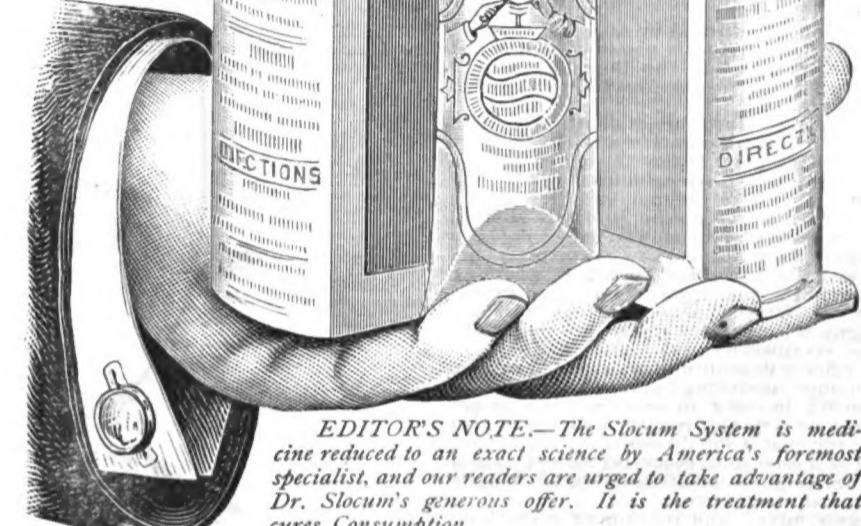
HERE IS HEALTH

FREE

These Four New Preparations comprise a complete treatment and cure for nearly all the ills of life.

The Emulsion of cod liver oil is needed by some, the Tonic by others, the Expectorant by others, the Jelly by others still, and all four, or any three, or two, or any one, may be used singly or in combination, according to the exigencies of the case.

Full instructions with each set of four free remedies, represented in this illustration.



EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System is medicine reduced to an exact science by America's foremost specialist, and our readers are urged to take advantage of Dr. Slocum's generous offer. It is the treatment that cures Consumption.

THESE FOUR REMEDIES

Represent a New system of treatment and cure for the weak, and those suffering from wasting diseases, weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, the grip, catarrh, consumption and other pulmonary troubles, or inflammatory conditions of nose, throat and lungs.

The treatment is free. You have only to write to obtain it.

By the system devised by DR. T. A. SLOCUM, the great specialist in pulmonary and kindred diseases, the needs of the sick body are supplied by the FOUR distinct remedies constituting his

Special Treatment known as the Slocum System.

Whatever your disease, one or more of these four remedies will be of wonderful benefit to you.

According to the needs of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free remedies, you may take one, or any two, or three, or all four, in combination.

The ailments of women and delicate children are speedily relieved.

The four remedies form a bulwark of strength against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

WRITE FOR THE FREE TRIAL.

To obtain these four FREE preparations, illustrated above, that have never yet failed to cure, all you have to do is to write mentioning COMFORT in which you read this article, to

DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 Pine Street, New York, giving name and full address. The four free remedies will then be sent you, in the hope that if they do you good you will recommend them to your friends.

LADIES I Make Big Wages AT HOME

and you can readily do the same, for the work is pleasant and will easily pay \$18 weekly. I have often made \$25 a day. Even your spare time is valuable. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

LOTS OF MAIL FREE

If you wish to receive lots of mail and samples free put your name in our Agents Directory, which goes to thousands of firms who will mail free samples of Agents Goods of every description, including Medicines, Books, Pictures, Novelties, Magazines, Cards, Household Articles, Wholesale Catalogues, etc. You will receive bushels of valuable samples. We must have 100,000 new names at once

for our Agents Directory, and to secure them quickly we will send you by return mail free all the following merchandise; Six separate books printed on nice paper and neatly bound; 6 Agents articles, retail 25c each; 22 colored portraits of U. S. Presidents, 12 of the States, 12 of the 13 popular songs with words and music; 1 U. S. postage Value Guide, showing prices paid for cancelled U. S. postage stamps; 1 colored map of the United States; a Story Magazine 4 months; a large catalogue of 1600 bargains and a \$1.00 Due Bill which entitles you to \$1.00 worth of goods free whether you buy anything or not. Send us your name to-day, and enclose 10 cents to help pay postage, packing, etc. Money cheerfully returned immediately if you are not delighted.

U. S. AGENTS DIRECTORY CO., 373 Dearborn Street, Dept. 90, Chicago, Ill.

\$7.95 BUYS A \$15.00 HARNESS

SEND NO MONEY, Cut out and return this ad, and we will send you this fine SINGLE BUGGY HARNESS by express C. O. D., subject to combination. You can examine it at your convenience, and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to harness that retail at \$12.00 to \$15.00, the greatest value ever seen, pay the express agent, **OUR SPECIAL PRICE... \$7.95** which are 40 to 75 cts.

THIS IS AN EXTRA HIGH GRADE, reliable single breast collar harness, made from extra heavy genuine selected Dundee oak tanned leather, extra heavy single strap, gig saddle, long pattern leather jockey, harness leather skirt, with heavy bearer and shaft tug, heavy belly band folds Griffith style, ¾-inch hip strap, ¾-inch side strap, ¾-inch turn back, scalloped, with round crupper sewed on. **Breast collar**, extra heavy, folded with heavy straight layer and box loops; breeching, folded with heavy straight layer, double and single, made from strong leather; traces, 1½-inches, 6 ft. long, extra good, well made, smooth, round edge to buckle in breast collar; bridle, ¾-inch box loops, round winker brace, patent leather blind, over check or side rein, fancy front and initial letter rosette; trimmings, extra heavy nickel plate or Davis black rubber as desired. **ORDER AT ONCE** and save at least \$6.00. Write for Harness and Buggy Catalogues, Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

\$4.95 LONG RANGE MARVEL

AMERICAN MADE BREECH LOADER. AUTOMATIC SHELL EJECTOR.

GENUINE TAPER CHOKE BORED, MADE FOR WHITE OR BLACK POWDER.

MADE FOR LONG RANGE SHOOTING.

WONDERFUL PENETRATION AND TARGET.

...OUR... Special Price, \$4.95.

WILSON'S WELDED STEEL TAPER CHOKE BORED LONG RANGE MARVEL

One may be quickly inserted. **THIS GUN** is made on the very latest model for 1901

for rapid loading, two shots can be fired very nearly as quickly as a revolver.

It is a machine made gun, with all parts interchangeable, made by skilled mechanics. It is a breech loading gun, with the breech in the down out and a new barrel.

It embodies all the up-to-date high grade points of all strictly high grade single barrel American made guns, with the defects of most of the foreign guns removed.

It is choke bored by the celebrated taper system, and bored especially for white

or black powder as desired. It is made heavy at the breech to give it STRENGTH AND RECOIL.

AT \$4.95 pounds. Comes with an extra quality walnut stock, pistol grip, latest top snap break, barrel and mountings

beautifully case hardened and finished. MADE EXTRA STRONG AT ALL ESSENTIAL POINTS, accurately adjusted and

gauged barrel selected, bored, fitted and strengthened at breech, with a view of giving GREAT PENETRATION

and killing at a longer range THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE BARREL GUN ON THE MARKET.

OUR SPECIAL \$4.95 PRICE is based on the actual cost of material and labor, with but our one-half percentage of profit added, and when you see and examine this gun, if you do not say it is such a

gun as was never seen in your section at anything like the price, you can return it to us at our expense of express charges both ways.

WRITE FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE of guns, rifles, revolvers, fishing tackle, scisces, tents, nets and other sporting goods.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

SEND NO MONEY

If you live within 1,000 miles of Chicago, if further, send \$1.00, mention No. 34091, and we will send you this genuine American breech loading, automatic shell ejecting, long range MARVEL SINGLE BARREL SHOTGUN by express C. O. D., subject to examination.

You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, one

of the best single breech loaders made and the greatest bargain you ever saw or heard of, price

express agent.

OUR SPECIAL PRICE, \$4.95 and express charges, less \$1.00 if sent with order.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

George Jones,	\$3.00
Alice Pierson,	2.50
Arthur W. Letson,	2.00
Belle Taylor.	1.50

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:
Welcome February! Dear to the heart of every loyal American as the birth month of the "Father of His Country", and doubly dear this year because we have just (December 12, 1900) celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the removal of the seat of Government from Philadelphia to the new city, then just laid out for the express purpose of a capital for the United States and called by the immortal name of the man who was then and is still "First in the hearts of his countrymen". George Washington.

To realize how that city has developed in the single century which has elapsed since its inception one has only to read of the state of Pennsylvania Avenue in those days—a mere bog with no sidewalks and no drainage, with cows, horses, pigs and chickens turned loose upon it, and then contrast it with the beautiful city of today with its broad, asphalt, tree-shaded avenues, its stately buildings and its magnificent parks. Surely we have every reason to be proud of our growth as a nation, for the improvement here is only in step with the onward strides of the whole country.

Our first letter today is on Oregon fish and fishing, and the author says:

"In that beautiful poem, 'Thanatopsis', Bryant, the author, said,

'Or lose thyself in the continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound
Save his own dashings—'

These are beautiful words in a beautiful poem, but could the Columbia river, which he calls the

dropped into a trough, down which they slide into a hollowed part of the boat.

"Columbia river salmon are the finest in the world, and thousands of dollars' worth are taken yearly in this way. An equal or perhaps a greater number are dragged out with seines; but one of the easiest and best methods of taking salmon is with a gill net. A net probably a hundred feet long and some ten or twelve feet deep is knitted and set in the water, floated by wooden corks, and having lead line to hold it stiff in the water. As the salmon come up stream they run their heads into the meshes of these nets, and are like spears thrown into soft wood. The spear will penetrate all right, but in pulling it out the barbs catch, and extraction is difficult. So with the salmon. If he attempts to back out his gills spread and hold him fast. He cannot go forward for his body grows larger from the head back to the middle fin. When a salmon gets into one of these nets, the corks directly over him on the surface of the water will droop lower than the others, and an experienced fisherman can often count his fish by the number of drooping corks.

"Trout fishing in Oregon is the finest sport imaginable. Take your bamboo fishing rod, fly-book, and a general equipment, and go back where a blue stream comes laughing out of the mountains, and if you are any kind of a fisherman whatever you will soon be in a sort of private dreamland. Drop a fly hook on the water and drag it toward you, and a dozen heads will shoot out all at once, with eyes in them that sparkle like rubies. Some will jump clear out of the water and turn somersaults, and the hook will quickly go under in a hungry mouth. Pull that one out and drop him struggling into your basket, then repeat the cast, and if luck does not desert you your basket will soon grow burdensome with its weight of speckled beauties.

"Rudyard Kipling gives in his American Notes a vivid description of a day's fishing which he had on the Clackamas, a beautiful little Oregon stream, in which he gives his opinion that as a sport the world offers no better."

GEO. JONES, Roseburg, Oregon.

I think all lovers of boys—certainly all who wish to see them develop into good, honorable men—will be interested in the following letter.



"At Annapolis Junction, about half way between Washington and Baltimore, has been established a branch of the well-known Boys' Republic of Freeville, New York. Upon our visit there, last spring, we were met at the station by Mr. Rogers, the superintendent, who had brought conveyances to take us to the farm where the Republic has its home. After a ride of about twenty minutes through country roads bordered with broad stretches of fields and shady woods, the carriage drove up before the farmhouse. It was a low, old-fashioned building, shaded in front with magnificent oak trees; all around, to an extent of fifty acres, stretched the farm lands, now green with newly sprouted vegetation, now brown where it was freshly plowed. To the east of the house we could see a young peach orchard, which, Mr. Rogers said, had been newly planted by the boys.

"The idea of the Republic seems to be to make the boys into good citizens by taking them away from city temptations, giving them plenty of health-giving outdoor work, teaching them independence by requiring that they work for what they have, and, finally, teaching them their country's laws and government by having them form themselves into a republic modelled on our own. So far, both here and in Freeville, the plan has worked with wonderful success.

"At the time of my visit twenty boys were living here. They came from Washington and Baltimore and are children whose parents are either unable or unfit to give them proper care and training. Sometimes they are truants from school or have been up once in the Police Court for a petty offence; but the Republic is in no sense a reformatory. When a boy enters the Republic, regular work is assigned to him, for which he is paid at the rate of ten cents an hour. The work consists of some hoeing, weeding, some housework and, in fact, all the lighter farm work, the heavier part being done of necessity by grown men. From two to three hours of each day are spent in the schoolroom and for this time it has been found necessary to pay the boys. They are paid too for holding public offices, which are nearly the same here as in the United States. From the money thus earned the boys pay their board, five dollars a week. In the Republic, however, five dollars does not mean the same as it does in United States currency. Instead, a system of aluminum money of the same denominations as ours is used. This is redeemable, when a boy leaves the Republic, at a rate of five to one in United States money.

"Besides the big farmhouse, which is the main living house, we were shown the temporary jail, a small wooden building of one room containing eight or ten narrow iron beds. The prisoners we saw working at the wood-piles; they were clothed in the regulation stripes and were watched over by two policemen.

"An interesting feature of our day was a visit to the court, which was held that afternoon. Court is held once a week and then all the offenders arrested during the week are tried. About a half dozen boys were brought up, while we were there, one for stealing eggs and feeding them to the pigs (!) and another for talking to the prisoners and fighting. The judge, a bright boy of fourteen, managed affairs in a businesslike and methodical a way as an experienced magistrate. He reproved one prisoner, fined another, sent a third to the workhouse in default of a fine, and still another to prison. The penalties inflicted are, if I am not

mistaken, one fifth of those awarded under the Maryland laws. On the whole, the theory and practice of the Boys' Republic seem eminently calculated to turn out intelligent and self-respecting citizens of the larger Republic."

ALICE PIERSON, Washington, D. C.

From Michigan to Mexico is a long step, and from a mint farm to a Mexican Cathedral and the scene of Mexican bull-fights is a decided change in the program.

"Just across the Rio Grande from El Paso and connected with it by the international bridge is Juarez, the city of adobe. One beautiful day while attending the Chautauqua at El Paso, I took the street car to visit Juarez. The cars are propelled by lazy mules and driven by uncleanly looking Mexicans.

"The boundary river of our Lone Star state I had supposed to be a very large stream, but to my surprise I found it to be but a paltry little rivulet over which one could step. It is true that four days before it had been a foaming torrent reaching from bank to bank, but the tillers of the soil soon made use of its waters, as irrigation is necessary to obtain any produce.

"Juarez is a small, unattractive city if one is but

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20.)

FREE HAIR FOOD.

All who wish to be cured of dandruff, save their hair and grow more should send name, age and full address with a small lock of hair extracted from roots (5 or 6 hairs sufficient), or a sample of daily combings, and a statement of the present condition of scalp to THE CRANITONIC HAIR FOOD CLINIC, 526 West Broadway, New York, and you will get a free bottle, by mail prepaid, with full directions for use, and a free report on the condition of your hair, after a scientific microscopic examination has been made in the Cranitonic Laboratories, the only Hair and Scalp Clinic in America devoted to the study of hair and scalp diseases. When writing for sample please say you read this article in *COMFORT*.

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This range weighs 420 pounds and the freight will average for 500 miles, \$1.00 to \$2.00; greater or lesser distances in proportion.

THIS RANGE is made in our own foundry by skilled mechanics from the best materials you can buy, in the handsomest, most ornamental, best baking and burning and most economical big square oven, high shelf range made.

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THIS BIG CAST IRON RANGE IS NO. 8 SIZE, OVEN 16 1/2 x 17 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches. Top is 42 x 25 inches. Fire box when changed to wood, 17 x 28. Fire box when ordered for WOOD ONLY. Back side from the very finest Camden stove pig iron. Latest 1901 reoosse moulting, large square fire lined oven door, large porcelain lined reservoir, handsome rococo back, large porcelain lined oven door, large porcelain lined reservoir, nickel oven door panel, nickel shelf, nickel draft door, nickel tea shelf, pins, hinge, knobs, panels, etc. Duplex grate, cut tops and centers, large flues, baled ash pan, slide hearth plate. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE, guarantee the stove to reach you in the same perfect condition it leaves our foundry.

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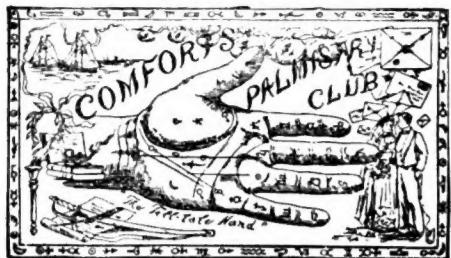
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To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address, and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings until the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixative, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixative.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

I HAVE a long list of questions to answer this month which I will proceed to do first.

Does a star on the end of a head line always signify hereditary insanity? Supposing the head line in the right hand ends thus on the Mount of the Moon, while on the left is found a square enclosing the star, crossing the head-line and resting on the life-line? No. The star on the head-line does not always signify insanity but signifies some trouble or grief connected with the head, unless counteracted by some other signs in the head, such as the square enclosing the star spoken of. Of course all bad signs are modified by the appearance of good ones in the hands and the reader must use his judgment in regard to them.

What does a double life-line in the left hand signify with only one in the right hand and that having a fork extending high on the Mount of Jupiter? A double life line always

gives strength and vigor to the constitution. The fork from the life line in the right hand to the Mount of Jupiter always signifies good fortune and gratified ambition.

Where is the influence line you speak of in connection with the marriage lines? It may be in several places. Any line running parallel to or crossing the marriage lines, or in any way interfering with them is an influence line. The clear, deep marks on both little fingers are called marriage lines but they do not necessarily signify marriage, they may mean only affairs of the heart or engagements, especially if these lines are broken or interfered with by other lines. As I have explained many times, these must be corroborated by marriage lines on the fate line or life line.

Suppose the fate line starts from the rascette and has a break after it reaches the head line extending dimly through the heart line through three squares and then has a fine fork; but at the place it broke after crossing the head line rises clear and distinct up to the base of the second finger? The three squares which appear at the break of the head line or just above it offset the bad effects of the break, but if the fate line starts up again clear and distinct to the base of the second finger that gives excellent luck and brings good fortune to the subject.

The same correspondent asks about the corresponding marriage line if they are to be looked for under the second finger or where. They are to be looked for on any part of the fate or the life lines, if they appear at the upper part of the life lines or the lower part of the fate lines they affect the early age of the sub-



"NORA C."

ject and so with these lines elsewhere, the age being indicated by position of these little lines, following close along by the side of the principal lines, fate or life. Lines crossing the principal lines are not marriage lines, and the marriage lines must appear in both hands.

What are the names of the lines extending diagonally across the hand, one starting a little below the center of the plain of Mars joined to the fate line and forked at the end, crossing the head line and the other starting a little low-

er, joined to the life line and crossing the fate? I cannot tell without seeing the hand or a reduction of it. They may be branches of the fate or life lines, or they may be merely chance lines and their reading would depend a great deal upon the other marks on the hand. They are just as likely to be good lines as bad ones, but they have no names. The black spot on any line is always a bad sign.

The next correspondent seems to have confused the marriage lines with the heart lines. They are not at all the same thing. Crosses on the heart line such as she has indicated, if they appear on the Mount of Jupiter denote happy marriage. The ones at the bottom of the life

line denote a changing position late in the life. The line separating from the life line near the beginning and growing gradually away from it indicates a close friendship or probably marriage which gradually goes away from the subject and where ending with the parallel lines as in this case would indicate that the friendship or marriage was ended by death. The island on the line of heart would mean a love affair late in life.

Another reader writes to ask if I could give lessons by mail and at what price. I have had several such inquiries but have already repeatedly stated in this column that I could not undertake anything of this kind. The best way to learn Palmistry is to study under some competent teacher and practice on the actual hand. If this cannot be done I should advise the purchasing of Cheiro's Book of the Hand, and after that is thoroughly learned to send for Heron-Alien's Manuel of Cheiroscopy. The study of these two books with the requisite amount of practice in reading hands, will make any one a good palmist, although some will have a natural gift at it which others will lack.

"Nora C." asks several questions connected with the palms which she encloses. First what lines or significations determine the profession for which a person is best adapted? First examine the hand as to its shape and quality. A hand with conical finger-tips whose mounts and lines show a great deal of idealism and artistic tendency will make an artist, or if the Mount of Venus is highly developed, a musician. Study the books to learn these different significations, indicated by the shape of the hand. The lines are considered afterwards in a general reading.

What is signified when the life and head lines in right hand are connected and separate about under the Mount of Jupiter and the head line goes on and divides under the Mount of Saturn, one branch going to the Mount of Mars, and other towards the wrist? These lines in left hand are not connected.

The mingling of the head and life lines, as in this hand, means that this life has been very much kept in the background and that the subject has not had the courage and encouragement which she ought to have had. She lacks self-confidence, is naturally bashful and will never be a reader unless she overcomes these

qualities.

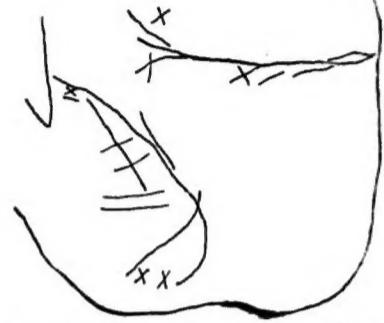
"Constant reader" asks what does a short line mean midway between the heart and head line? and then again when the short line has an island on it? This is a chance line, and should be read according to the lines of the other parts of the hand. It may mean a voyage, or it may mean an affair of the heart. An island is always one of two things. Heron-Alien say "it is either the mark of something disgraceful, or else it betrays an hereditary evil. It is the more an hereditary weakness of the head, or on the line of heart it betrays an hereditary heart disease," and so on.

As for the disgraceful indication of the island, it should be taken to mean more properly that the chance, i. e., the temptation, will occur; but a long line of head and a strong phalanx of will on the thumb will always annul the most evilly-disposed island.

On the line of heart it means a good hand heart disease, or, in a bad one, adultery.

On the line of head, if it occurs on the Plain of Mars, it shows a murderous tendency; if beyond the Plain of Mars, it betrays evil thoughts. On a good hand it will merely indicate hereditary head weakness.

On the line of liver or health it betrays a tendency to theft or dishonesty; in a good



hand a weak digestion, or an intestinal complaint.

On the line of life an island indicates some mystery connected with the birth."

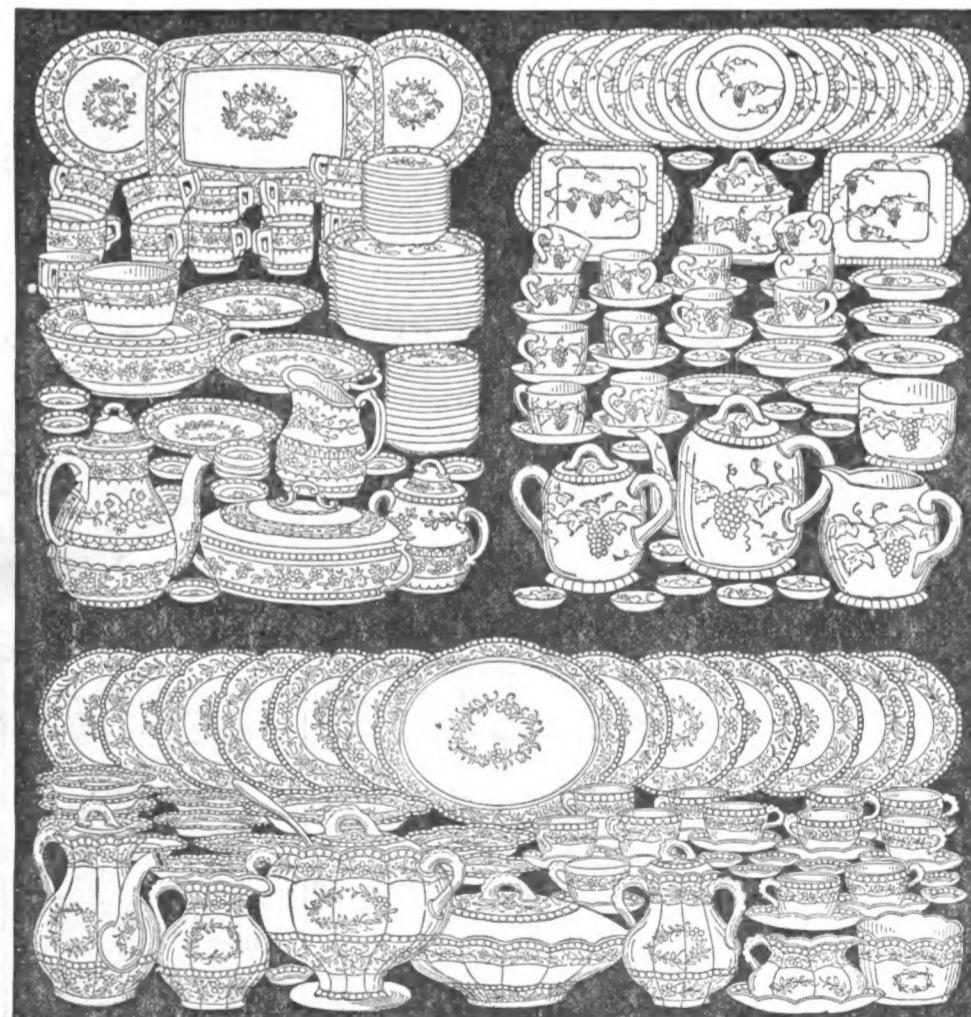
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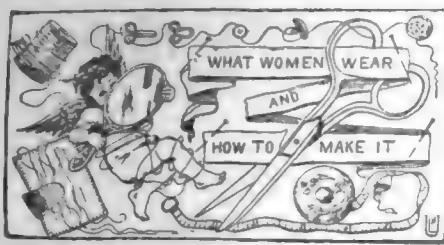
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made dresses, and be the envy of your lady friends, for we give you four handsome patterns (all different designs) suitable for Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn wear—one for each season, also the 168 Pieces of handsome China as illustrated. Order the Magazines and sell them at once if you want the presents.





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



OLD is the finish used upon all gowns no matter what we wear they are intended for be it a filmy evening frock or a severe tailor made, even the separate waists show an elaborate glinting and glistening of gold and most wonderful, it seems to harmonize with all sorts of material. Apropos of gold trimming, I saw an exquisite separate waist made of ivory white Liberty satin laid in the tiniest of tucks each laid in opposite directions so as to give the idea of box-pleats stitched along the edges. The front is pouched considerably and the back drawn down simply. Three empiements of finest rose-bud point lace are used as the decoration, one in the center, reaching from the throat to the bust and one on each shoulder. French knots of gold are introduced in the pattern of the lace, while a row of gold braid outlines the edges. Tiny gold buttons are used to close the front, and to decorate the loose cuffs of the sleeves which are tucked also.

The widest sort of material is required for the newest skirt model, as it has but two seams, one at the front, and one at the back, with a narrow fitted flounce running across the front, from side to side when it vanishes into nothing. This is called the seamless skirt and is the very latest cry.

Returning to the subject of gold trimmings, the manufacturers have produced marvelous things in woven gold gauzes fit to adorn the fairies. For evening dresses these materials of gold mixed with tulle or chiffon and covered with applications of Chantilly laces are the height of fashion. As transparencies over a ground of silk, and veiled with black or white mouseline de soie, they are remarkably effective. Muslins for the coming season are also showing stripes of patterns in gold thread.

I have seen some lovely toques. The upper part of one was made of an enormous rose of gold muslin, set upon a frame of draped tulle, the turned up side of the toque showing a black feather and a white feather, drooping over the hair.



Taffeta dresses are all the rage. The skirts are trimmed round the bottom with several rows of velvet ribbon of different widths, the style of our grandmothers, and the corsages are ornamented with muslins, lace and embroideries. Short sleeves, in the Louis XVI. style, with "jabots" of lace and muslin stopping at the elbow, are worn with these toilettes, and the general effect is completed by a charming hat in the same style, made of tulle embroidered with gold and lace and having a wreath of roses and a feather drooping over the hair.

A picturesque spring hat is of sky blue chenille, having a wreath of panne violets and a trimming of black velvet.

A charming dinner gown for a half-mourning outfit is of white Liberty silk with the entire skirt trimmed with applications of black lace, surrounding clusters of violet blossoms sewed closely to the skirt. Over the whole is a sprinkling of lusterless jets. The corsage is covered with the same design, and pouches in front to give the long-waisted effect. The violets that finish the decolletage are loosened to hang a trifle from the stems and are mixed with a rope of violet and white mouseline de soie twisted softly about the top of the corsage. The close elbow sleeves are covered with the embroidery of black lace and appliqued violets, and are oddly finished at the bottom by a loosely twist-

ed rope of the mouseline de soie, with a loose bunch of the violets hanging at the outside of the arm. Although the foundation of this gown is white, the effect is black and violet.

There is always a question as to how to finish a chemisette for a jacket suit. Exceedingly high or elaborate neck effects are not well regarded for spring wear and, of course, a plain choker, with no ornamentation at all, is equally out of the question. A pretty idea is a chemisette of tucked white satin with a high turnover collar, what is called the Directoire collar of the same stuff. The collar may be effectively edged with a narrow line of black velvet.

A pretty sleeve to a short jacket has the cloth forming the bell sleeve to just below the elbow. This is met by a double puff of velvet in same color. The jacket is short in front, showing a girdle of velvet laid in several flat pleats. It closes in a diagonal line across the breast, with clusters of small buttons, and is provided with small revers. An odd feature of the gown is a straight fold of cloth making the belt under the loose pleats that form the girdle. The skirt is the model mentioned here, and is circular in form; though of course, much more bouffant at the hem than the old style circular skirts.

There are so

many devices by which one may use the bolero in a disguised form. The blouse bodice, a garment with jacket sides but which tucks into a belt is an accepted model and is susceptible of many variations. Among these is some form of the bolero. A dear little jacket cuts off under the arms to show an under blouse, and has trio tabs coming down in front that tuck into the belt. It may fasten across the bust in

jacket style and be trimmed with collar and revers. With a cloth suit the under flounce may be of silk, but is very effectively built of panne velvet, the beautiful Persian designs being especially rich.

A charming idea for a stock is now one of medium height, the style now effected by chic women, made of cloth of gold laid in folds to fit the neck and embroidered with the wearer's favorite flower. A narrow border of velvet corresponding to the colors employed in the embroidery is used as a finish at the top.

L'Aiglon's popularity is as evident in the floral fashions as in dress. No bouquet of violets, whether for street or evening wear is considered quite complete unless tied with a Royal purple velvet ribbon tipped with gold spikes, the sort that figures so conspicuously in Rostand's play.

Pinked out frills of taffeta are set crisply as a trimming for cloth gowns of light weights, and give one the impression of a freshly plucked flower, they are so feathery in appearance. Fancy a frock of sheer white organdie trimmed with frills of white glace taffeta with pinked edges.

The fashionable outline shows the hats low and broad, hair not at all remarkable, but soft and full with a slight tendency toward the nape, shoulders broadened, perfectly flat back, waists small, busts well thrown out, and the figure drawn in well below. Hips are small, line of drapery long-flowing. Gloves and shoes easy of fit, willowy poses, gliding movements in walking. Altogether a most pleasing whole.

A feather boa is a most charming adjunct to the toilette and really seems to possess the faculty of making a faded face more youthful and of adding real beauty to a plain face. Harsh outlines are softened, scraggy necks and yellow throats hidden, complexions heightened, eyes brightened, and an undeniably air of gracefulness added to the ensemble by the soft, curved masses of feathers. For practical purposes the collar is of finest white linen, daintily hemstitched.

Flowers are being used to a large extent on up-to-date millinery. Roses with leaves of ermine dead shades are popular, while entire toques are made of violets.

The postillion back, quite short, is a feature of the new coat or jacket.

Various shades of old rose as well as a variety of blue all bordering on the delft shades are much in vogue. You may have all the flounces you want on your new silk dress skirt; in fact they may reach from belt to hem and not be overdone; not for a long season have they been so popular.

The perfectly flat hat of tucked silk is extremely popular and very pretty and girlish. All the clever girls are making their own inserting underneath an inch-wide band to tilt it from the hair, while a few soft rosettes may repose underneath the brim at the front just over the hair.

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Cuba is wrestling with the same question that agitates our states—i. e. whether a restricted or an unrestricted suffrage makes for the best results in government.

This is the month that sees the exodus from the cities of the idle and wealthy class who are said "to chase summer." Our southern mountains and seaboard are alive with pleasure seekers during the month when our northern climate is most severe.

The peculiar relation that the Supreme Court bears to our government is admired by foreigners and students of government as soon as it is understood. It is unique in the history of governments. By the Constitution, the Supreme Court decides all questions of federal law that involve the expressed or delegated powers of Congress and the implied powers. It is the final tribunal for the interpretation and application of the Constitution and by means of this peculiar power the Supreme Court occupies a position unlike that of any other court of the world. The attention of the people is directed to this power anew by the recent decision as to the laws of commerce or the tariff duties between the Philippines, Porto Rico and the United States. If these laws were declared constitutional it demonstrated the theory that the Constitution followed the flag and that land held by the United States must be considered as territory possessing the inherent power to become states. No decision since the Dred Scott decision has been as far-reaching in its possible results as this present one.

Detroit seems to be having an enjoyable time on the question of standard or sun time. It was a surprise to find that any place in the country had not yet adopted the "standard time" put into effect many years ago. This plan divided the United States into four great belts and arranged for an hour's difference in time between each belt. It was universally adopted and simplified railroad time tables and business engagements in general. Detroit is in central time but it still kept the "sun time" so that when Chicago and other cities said 12 M., Detroit said 12.28. Then the council changed to standard time. Confusion worse confounded ensued. Then the city fathers ordered the clocks turned forward again. More confusion! By this time the whole country had aroused to the fact that whether it was standard time or sun time there was a "hot time in the old town." There is a celebrated chapter in the Bible that states that there is a time to laugh and a time to weep, and incidentally names a time for most of the duties and pleasures of life but it is silent as to the fixing of time. Detroit can proudly claim that Me and the Sun keep proper time and that the rest of the earth may cling to any old time.

Saint Valentine is the only saint in the calendar whose day is universally recognized. All ages, all colors and all religions bow at some time at his shrine. Religions may change in details but the underlying principle of all that endures in them is love. Good St. Valentine long ago selected February as his month and his day has been faithfully observed ever since. Legends, traditions and folklore have gathered around its observance. The old idea of a valentine called for an original verse from the worshippers at the shrine. What wretched doggerel has been raised to the dignity of the most exquisite verse because it was read through the rose color of the "light that never was on land or sea." The extravagant ways of the age show

themselves in the manner of expression of St. Valentine feelings. Verses written on laced paper, with fat hearts and arrows, darts, cupids and true lover's knots belong to the century that is gone. The pictured heart has given place to one of gold; the pictured flowers to violets at four cents apiece. The modern expensive tribute can say no more than the old style valentine. The pessimistic carper may claim that it says less and that true sentiment is outgrown with the old simplicity of expression. St. Valentine is the patron saint of love and when that sentiment ceases to exist human nature and even divine nature will be no more.

February is the birth month of two great Americans—Washington and Lincoln. The question has sometimes been asked, "Who is the greatest American?" The argument has often been advanced that Benjamin Franklin in his three-fold duties of statesman, man of letters and man of science, might properly be considered in an all-around sense as the greatest American. The American people have answered by national and state legislation. They have called Americans young and old to observe the birthday of two men, Washington the creator and Lincoln the preserver of the Union. These men may be considered as the two absolutely indispensable figures in the drama of history. Each brought qualities that were a distinctive part of his own personality, and these qualities were the ones that compelled success. No greater contrast could be found than that presented by the general characteristics, education and environment of the two men. Washington of aristocratic birth, trained in the surroundings and society of the oldest civilization that America could boast and Lincoln, the descendant of the "poor white" element with the crude life of the frontier as a preparation—no greater contrast could be presented. In the dark and troublous times that each man faced the characteristic that distinguished him among his fellowmen was an infinite patience and an unfaltering faith in the ultimate result of the struggle. It is fitting that the nation should pause a moment on the natal day of these two great men and review the simplicity, sincerity and patience that meant more in the end than all other qualities however brilliant. The lessons to be drawn from the characters of the men themselves is no less vital than an appreciation of the achievements of their lives.

The remarkable development of interest in automobiles promises to revive a forgotten page in our history. Bicycles created a demand for good roads and a most remarkable improvement in this direction has taken place throughout the country. Roads are an index of civilization. Rome maintained her power by a remarkable series of roads radiating in all directions from the imperial city so that the phrase "All roads lead to Rome" was an historical truth in the days of the Caesars. While our country leads the world in the extent and development of its railroads, it is far behind other nations in its roads. We have hardly learned the art of road making. The Automobile Club has appointed a committee of leading and representative citizens who are to endeavor to influence Congress to build a great national boulevard from Boston to San Francisco. With the development of interest in the bicycle, the automobile and in outdoor life such a plan commends itself warmly. The railroads spoiled the old interest in good roads. This later demand for material help towards good roads revives interest in the old Cumberland road. In 1806 the United States began the Cumberland road which was to lead from Pittsburgh west and to open the public lands of Ohio. Up to this time public improvements had been made by the states alone and the devotion of the public revenue to internal improvements met with bitter opposition. In 1808, Gallatin suggested a great system of public improvements which were to include a system of public roads running from Maine to Georgia and thence to New Orleans and San Francisco. Up to 1812 over \$200,000 had been expended by the United States on the Cumberland Road. In 1816, Calhoun brought forward a bill authorizing the expenditure of about a million and a half on canals and roads. This bill was vetoed by Madison in the closing days of his administration. In spite of this by 1821 over \$1,800,000 had been spent on the Cumberland road and it was slowly being developed westward. Calhoun had come to the view that the appropriation of money for internal improvements was unconstitutional. In 1822, Monroe vetoed a bill for the preservation and repair of the road. After years of struggle, the principle that government money may be spent for such improvements has been accepted by all political parties, but the development of railroads has caused the neglect of wagon roads. If the Automobile Club shall succeed in causing Congress to adopt its old plan and build a great road, the greater portion of the population will be pleased. While such a road would serve at first as a pleasure ground it might aid in developing new schemes of transportation for business purposes. With a fine system of roads the automobile may become an important factor in the transportation of freight for short distances. In such a case the

railroad question of prices for a "long haul" and a "short haul" may meet with a new factor.

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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	No. VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.
165	American Liberty March	Cook
161	Anton's Abroad	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltz	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Pacher
187	Austrian Song, Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beautiful of Paradise Waltz, 4 hands	Straubog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
213	Black Hawk Waltz	Walsh
257	Blue Bells of Scotland, Trans.	Richards
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Notes
285	Cavalier Rusticana, Four hands	Mascagni
289	Cavalier Rusticana, Intermezzo	Mascagni
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltz	Stroh
297	Chatelaine, La Menue	Lunge
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz, 4 hands	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Musid
287	Clouston's March	Notes
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
269	Coppella, Vale Lente	Debiles
211	Crystal River Waltz	Cook
235	Da Dala-Polka	Durk
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
237	Diamond Valley Waltz	Morhouse
298	Distlike Waltz	Duggie
217	Electric Light Galop	Notes
81	Estella, Air de Ballet, Very fine	Hennes
107	Ethel Polka	Barkee
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
241	Fantastic Schottische	Guthe
291	Fatuitza Galop	Laubig
231	Faust, Selections	Durk
77	Faith Nocturne	Leybach
233	Fairing in the Starlight, Waltz	Lausanne
239	Flower Song, Op. 39	Lunge
283	Forstville Waltz	Zahn
277	Freischutze, Selections	Durk
177	Frolic of the Frogs	Watson
49	Full of Ginger, March Galop	Natoma
183	Golden Rain, Nocturne	Clay
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Musid
281	Her Britz! Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
182	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Slack
130	Homa Sweet Home, Transcription	Kostas
177	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Gottschalk
153	Jenny Lind Polka, Four hands	Kuhn
187	Last Hope, Meditation	Heinrich
195	Leap Year Schottische	Heinrich
253	Le Petit Bal, Polka Mazurka	Le Petit
159	Lee's (Gen. II) "On to Cuba" galop	Durk
249	Lohengrin, Selections	Durk
161	London March—Two Step	Musid
243	Love's Dreamland Waltzes	Roeder
89	Madden's Prayer, The	Badarowske
240	Martin's Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes, Four hands	Krug
263	May Day Schottische	Krueger
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hovis
131	Mouastery Bells, Nocturne	Welti
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	My Music Box, The, Caprice	Leibach
125	My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	Cook
305	Napoleon	Parlow
87	National Anthem of Eight Great Nations	Parlow
175	National Song of America	Blake
155	Nichtagle's Hill, op. 1	Krueger
211	Ocean Wave Waltz	Krueger
171	Old Folks at Home, Transcription	Durk
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The, Variations	Strauss
273	One Heart, One Soul, Mazurka	Spencer
219	On the Wave Waltz	Greig
187	Oregon, Queen of the Sea, Two step	Rosas
245	Orveta Waltz	Arbuckle
9	Our Little Agnes, Waltz	Arbuckle
181	Over the Waves Waltz	Arbuckle
79	Please Do Waltz	Arbuckle
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppl.)	Brunner
265	Psyche, Gavotte	Mattel
167	Red, White and Blue, Forever, March	Bliss
143	Richmond March—two step	Bliss
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves, Idylle	Lange
149	Salem Witches March—Two Step	Lust
189	Schubert's Serenade, Transcription	Wynman
161	Silvery Waves, Variations	Martin
169	Smith's (General) March	Clark
295	Souvenir of the Ball Waltz	Strauss
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Fahrbach
289	Spring Flowers Polka	Wolff
279	Stephania Polka	Wolff
151	Storm, The, Imitation of Nature	Krueger
73	Stone Mazurka	Wolff
109	Suitin' Land March	Wolff
209	Sweet Land Ago, Transcription	Arbuckle
111	Tarantella Galop	Wolff
273	Twilight Echoes, Song without words	Wolff
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wolff
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludwitz
205	Village Pa Raade Quickstep	Cook
7	Visions of Light, Waltz	Richards
203	Warbling, at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
281	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
251	Winoome Grace, A perfect gem	Elouze
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
301	Yacht Waltz	Dinmore
105	Zephyr Waltz	Brug

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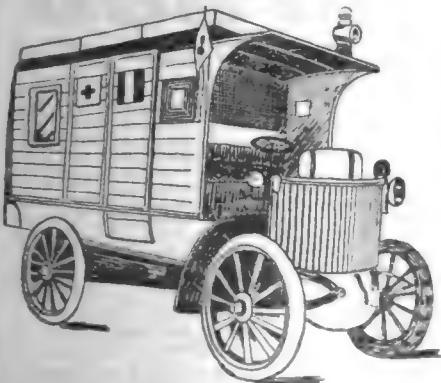
Any 10 for 25 cents.

Any 21 for 50 cents.



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

In these days when the bicycle has been utilized for everything under the sun, we are surprised at nothing. The automobile is a combination of the bicycle idea with the use of electricity, so that recent advances made in automobiles comes in our line. As is well known, the question of the use of automobiles in military operations is one which now occupies the mind of all military authorities. To France must be given the credit of having first taken up the matter seriously, and for having brought it within the range of practice. The good work done in the maneuvers was the result of years of experimenting and therefore it was possible to em-



AMBULANCE.

ploy several kinds of automobiles, each one well adapted to the use to which it was put. Military automobiles can be put in one of three classes:

- 1—For carrying passengers.
- 2—For the transportation of light material.
- 3—Traction automobiles for the conveyance of heavy material.

Those of the first class resemble closely the automobiles used by private individuals. They include Dion Tricycles, which are employed by the general staff for the rapid transmission of orders and dispatches.

These tricycles are painted a dull gray, that being the color most difficult to distinguish at a distance.

Among those for the transportation of material is a surgery automobile, which is practically a miniature hospital. The seat is for the driver and two hospital aids. The partition can be opened and inside is packed a folded operating table and necessities. The center of the car is divided into a dozen compartments, each one of which contains a case of medicine. On the top of the carriage are two big cases containing surgical instruments and the larger articles required. Behind is a room for two doctors, furnished with a lamp, table, hooks, etc. Under each seat is a small reservoir of six and a half gallons of water. At one side of the door at the back there is a small cupboard, containing a sterilizer, from which water can be procured at any moment be procured. At the other side of the door a ladder is fixed, by means of which one can climb on the roof, where the stretchers, etc., are kept. A folded tent is so arranged that when it is open it can be used as operating or consulting room, one side of which is formed by the back of the carriage itself. This automobile which is also painted gray, has a motor of ten horse power, and travels at the rate of from two and one-half to ten miles an hour.

The postal automobile has a speed of from four and one-half to seventeen and one-half miles. The telegraph van has a petroleum motor. Its maximum speed is seventeen and one-half miles. The telegraph automobile can travel twenty miles an hour, and is very ingeniously constructed. Behind the front seat is a movable partition. When the partition is raised, the operators, sitting in front, turn around to the apparatus. At the same time two electricians at the back establish communication with the wires.

The third class comprises those used for the transportation of heavy artillery, regimental baggage, bridge material, etc. They are really very powerful traction engines of moderate speed. The Scott engine drew seige cannon weighing fifty tons up slopes of ten in one hundred. They will run forty-five miles without having to coke. As for the price they cost less than horses, and the repairs do not cost so much as relays of horses. The coke costs about one-quarter the amount of horse feed and does not take up one-twentieth of the room.

Deserving of particular notice is the Renault Automobile, with signaling apparatus, which was tested for the first time at the maneuvers. It is an ordinary automobile, with petroleum motor of three-horse power. In the rear is a dynamo, operated directly from the motor. The axle of the auto is broken by a slip joint, and can be replaced in a moment by the axle of

the dynamo. This dynamo operates a projector, which is formed of an arc lamp with horizontal carbons and a crystal mirror of parabolic form. The stand and support of the projector are of aluminum, for the sake of lightness, with several lengths of wire, which make it possible to operate the projector at some distance from the auto. A table with indicating instruments is stowed in front of the auto. Experiment showed that it was possible to read a newspaper in the light thrown at a distance of two and a half miles from the instrument.

In London, where every foot of space is very valuable, owners of motor vehicles who "mote" into town to their offices have extreme difficulty in finding suitable stabling places for their rigs, except at enormously high rates.

In some cities they have established a motor vehicle stable, where will be found every requisite for the charging and repairing of automobiles of all types. Among the conveniences there found are storage accommodation for the machines, a completely equipped repair shop, waiting rooms, etc., in fact, everything calculated to popularize the place as well as to make it of practical service.

In these days when the proprietor of almost every bicycle repair shop in the country is experimenting in the direction of the application of power to the modern bicycle, it is customary to class all efforts in a similar direction, even of a decade ago, as "ancient". In this sense, therefore, the following description of one of the earliest steam-driven bicycles ever seen in this country is not without interest, although it made its appearance only 15 years ago—in January, 1885. It was perfected by L. G. Copeland, of Phoenix, Ariz., who gave several very successful exhibitions of its powers.

A reciprocating steam engine is attached to the bar of a Star Bicycle, which connects the steering bar with the small wheel in front. Benzine is used for fuel, and this is carried in a reservoir farther down on the bar. Ninety pounds of steam can be carried, but the machine can be run with 20 pounds. The machine averages about five minutes a mile over any road. The pedals can be used in conjunction with the steam power when necessary, and the speed will be increased accordingly. By the unscrewing of two bolts the entire machine can be taken off, and there remains an ordinary Star Bicycle in its entirety. The boiler, water

rear wheel by means of a belt, which ran in a grooved rim fastened thereto. This illustration of the proto-type of the modern motor



bicycle originally appeared in the Scientific American, and gives a very fair idea of the appearance of the "ancient" vehicle.

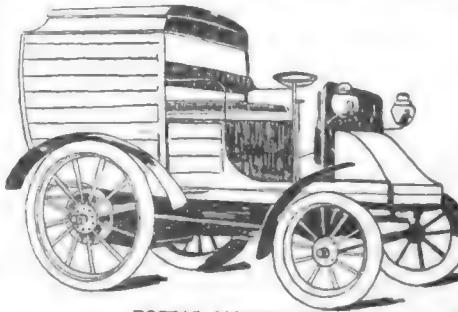
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Our readers, who own spavined horses, will be gratified to learn that Fleming Bros., Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., are reported to be accomplishing wonders with their Spavin Cure advertised in another column.

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

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tank, engine, benzine tank and all appliances weigh 18 pounds. The engine is of one-quarter horse-power.

The engine proper was ridiculously light, and the power was transmitted to the large



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MENTION YOUR CHOICE—STATE WHETHER YOU WANT A BREAKFAST, DINNER, or TEA SET; NAME DECORATION DESIRED—BLUE, BROWN, PINK, GREEN, or GOLD. EVERY PERSON answering this advertisement can get a handsomely decorated Set absolutely free—we mean it. A straightforward, honest offer, by a reliable House to advertise its business, for everybody to accept. Send at once your name, post-office address, and nearest Express or Freight Depot and you will receive it. Remember every one can have their choice of a 56 piece Breakfast, Dinner, or Tea Set Free. All sets carefully boxed and packed at our expense. No one is barred out—we positively will not go back on it, no matter what it costs us. FASHION COMPANY, Station D, Box 35, New York City. TO OUR READERS.—This company is reliable and carry out every promise made in this advertisement: we advise all wishing a 56 PIECE SET of CHINAWARE to reply at once. PUBLISHER

COUPON
NUMBER
2627

ment is made because we want a big circulation quick, and if you wish a set of dishes FREE don't delay.

CONDITION.—Only pin this NUMBERED COUPON to your name and address and with it you must send 10¢ silver or stamps to help pay advertising expenses and you will receive a four months' subscription to a beautiful magazine together with our offer of a 56 Piece China Set (exactly as illustrated) which we shall positively send the same day this coupon is returned. If you comply promptly and accept we will carry out this offer to ship a full 56 Piece Breakfast, Dinner, or Tea Set absolutely free, all boxed and packed at our expense and further guarantee against breakage or damage. This extraordinary inducement is made because we want a big circulation quick, and if you wish a set of dishes FREE don't delay.

Belgian Hares.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



GENERAL interest throughout the country is now being aroused in the raising of Belgian hares, and professional breeders as well as leisurely fanciers are vieing with each other in their attempts to show finer points and more famous pedigrees of these attractive little animals.

The breeding of these rabbits is in its infancy in this country. Until very recently little attention has been paid to it in the Eastern States, and though more extensive interest has been displayed in the West there has been scarcely a beginning even there.

New England seems to take the lead in the East, but the demand in New York and Philadelphia is steadily increasing.

While it is only within the last fifteen years that Belgian hares have been introduced into this country, they have been raised extensively in Europe for half a century.

The exact origin of this breed is very much in doubt, if not entirely unknown. The theory has been advanced that they are the development of a cross between a rabbit and a hare, but this is undoubtedly traditional. It is far more probable that they are the result of a cross between two varieties of rabbits, black and white and red, or black and red, a purely artificial type of rabbits from which years of experimental breeding have stolen their most characteristic points.

They were first introduced into England from Belgium, France and the Netherlands, as an article of food, and it is estimated that England alone consumes between two and three million dollars worth of Belgian hare meat per annum.

English breeders confine themselves almost entirely to the raising of fancy stock, this line being more profitable, although greater capital is required. Prices range from \$10 to \$150 per head, according to the pedigrees and points considered and scored upon in the show ring. Some of these are undesirable in the food animal, where weight is sought after at the expense of symmetry.

The regulation score card runs as follows:

Color,	20
Ticking,	15
Symmetry,	20
Ears,	10
Eyes,	10
Legs and feet,	10
Size,	5
Condition,	5
Neck,	5
and an animal which reaches 94 or 95 brings a good price.	

After a visit to one of the first-class rabbitries, INCORRECT WAY TO HOLD, one can readily understand the rapid growth of interest in this industry, for there is something very attractive, even to the novice, about the general contour and appearance of a thoroughly well-bred Belgian hare.

On entering a well kept rabbitry one is immediately impressed by its absolute cleanliness, for it is most essential that scrupulous care be exercised in this particular. The rabbits are kept in small cages or hutches, the size being about four by five feet and perhaps two and a half feet in height. These are arranged in tiers around the sides, as well as in the center of the room, separated by wooden partitions or wire netting, and each contains but one specimen, except in the case of a doe and her litter, for a well pedigreed Belgian insists on being sole monarch of his domain and resents the entrance of all intruders, the does being particularly autocratic.

One sees the little creatures sitting here in state, gazing complacently out of their large brown eyes, receiving in the most dignified manner the admiration which they never fail to excite, occasionally hopping around their small quarters and taking a nibble at a portion of the pine partitions of the cage, or the remains of a former meal. They are fed twice a day, principally on oats and hay, and require plenty of clear, fresh water.

These hares are, properly speaking, rabbits, and the confusion has arisen owing to the Belgian words for hare and rabbit being identical. They resemble the English hare in size and shape and are much larger than an ordinary rabbit, a full grown Belgian weighing from seven to nine pounds.

Their bodies are long and rangy, their fore legs straight and slender and their ears long and slim. In some of the imported rabbits there is an entire absence of the dewlap, while the best domestic varieties show a moderate development of this feature. Their color is of a soft rich roan or "rufous red," the shade

being influenced by the ticking, or black hairs which are irregularly interspersed among the red.

The litters average about seven. The young are born with closed eyes and without hair. The eyes do not open until the growth of fur is well started; generally about ten days after birth. They are kept housed in New England climate the year round, being susceptible to dampness, though not seriously affected by cold.

So many generations of these animals have been bred in captivity that they have lost the original faculty which their wild ancestors possessed of providing for themselves, and were they now turned adrift, the quantity of green food which they would greedily devour would prove most disastrous to them, and they would succumb also to the vicissitudes of the weather and the changes of climate.

They will stand considerable handling if done in the proper manner, but as they are too heavy to be taken up by the ears alone, the skin immediately back of the ears must be grasped as well.

They make most admirable pets, generally gentle and only remonstrating at the familiarity of being touched under the chin, which mark of delicacy we cannot but respect in dealing with these aristocratic little creatures.

Aside from the profit and satisfaction derived from raising Belgians for exhibition and prize winning purposes, there is no doubt that there has been opened to the public a new industry which will prove a source of revenue to those who enter it. In Los Angeles alone last year, eight thousand pounds of Belgian hare meat was marketed. In addition to the meat the fur and skins are of value, the former for hat making and all other purposes for which a cheaper grade of fur is required. The skin is used much more extensively than is generally known in glove making, it being thin, tough, and easily cured.

It must be remembered that all who enter this field in this country now are pioneers; a distinctly American type of Belgians, though desirable, being as yet undeveloped. As the interest grows, there should be no difficulty in disposing of the increase in stock at good prices, a ready market for the young, even of inferior pedigree, being assured. Little space is required, although care and cleanliness are essential. Any place suitable for poultry, if clean and dry, is all that is necessary. The hutches can be easily made and the food is inexpensive. The first cost depends wholly upon the quality of the stock purchased. A trio, consisting of a buck and two does, can be bought for from \$25.00 to \$100.00. This is the unit, and as the does breed every sixty days, and the young commence to breed very early, a well stocked rabbitry should be the result in a short time. It is necessary, however, to beware of too much inbreeding, the same rules applying here as in the raising of poultry.

Several papers and magazines are now published in the interest of this sport or industry alone, and those who are considering the question can without difficulty become acquainted with all the details requisite for success.

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After all it is very questionable if the Belgian hare industry is not a thing to be deplored. The experience of Australia with rabbits has shown them to be an unqualified curse to the country. Some twenty or thirty years ago a few pet rabbits were taken out by English settlers to the colonies and let loose. Their fecundity is so remarkable that they multiplied in a way that soon caused the farmers to seek government aid to exterminate them. Notwithstanding every effort, and huge rewards offered, they have increased and millions of pounds value in products have been ruined by them.

Already the rabbit nuisance is causing the greatest apprehension in California, where the raising of them was first asserted. They not only destroy the growing vegetable gardens but are particularly fond of the young bark on small fruit trees and vines. A protest has gone up all over the state against the pest. What is true of California is true everywhere that they have been introduced. Reliable information goes to show that the pleasure of raising them quickly wears out, and that the meat is insipid in taste and does not find a ready market in any section and in most places is practically unsalable.

Recognizing that by careful work in the press the promoters have given this industry widespread notoriety, COMFORT has given its readers the above article to show what is claimed by its friends; but we do not endorse the project nor do we advise readers to enter into this scheme, which in the end will cause them disappointment and anxiety.

A GOD-SEND TO PILE SUFFERERS. Thousands cured by my new discovery. Any case permanently cured or forfeit \$100. Treatment free to any afflicted person. Don't suffer longer but write to Mrs. M. Fredericks, 1544 Euclid Av., Philadelphia, Pa.

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SEND US \$1.17 with this ad. and we will send you this 50-POUND BELL. If you do not find it the greatest value you ever saw and equal to bells that retail as high as \$5.00, say so and we will return your \$1.17. The bell is 17 inches in diameter, it is made of Metal, full bronzed, has a loud, clear ring, fine tone, well finished, a very handsome bell. Comes complete with all mountings and hangings to go on post. Order today and save more than one-half in price. Write for free Catalogue of Farm, Church, School and Factory Bells, all SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.

CORRECT WAY TO HOLD.

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So many generations of these animals have been bred in captivity that they have lost the original faculty which their wild ancestors possessed of providing for themselves, and were they now turned adrift, the quantity of green food which they would greedily devour would prove most disastrous to them, and they would succumb also to the vicissitudes of the weather and the changes of climate.

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It must be remembered that all who enter this field in this country now are pioneers; a distinctly American type of Belgians, though desirable, being as yet undeveloped. As the interest grows, there should be no difficulty in disposing of the increase in stock at good prices, a ready market for the young, even of inferior pedigree, being assured. Little space is required, although care and cleanliness are essential. Any place suitable for poultry, if clean and dry, is all that is necessary. The hutches can be easily made and the food is inexpensive. The first cost depends wholly upon the quality of the stock purchased. A trio, consisting of a buck and two does, can be bought for from \$25.00 to \$100.00. This is the unit, and as the does breed every sixty days, and the young commence to breed very early, a well stocked rabbitry should be the result in a short time. It is necessary, however, to beware of too much inbreeding, the same rules applying here as in the raising of poultry.

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Notwithstanding every effort, and huge rewards offered, they have increased and millions of pounds value in products have been ruined by them.

Already the rabbit nuisance is causing the greatest apprehension in California, where the raising of them was first asserted. They not only destroy the growing vegetable gardens but are particularly fond of the young bark on small fruit trees and vines. A protest has gone up all over the state against the pest. What is true of California is true everywhere that they have been introduced. Reliable information goes to show that the pleasure of raising them quickly wears out, and that the meat is insipid in taste and does not find a ready market in any section and in most places is practically unsalable.

Recognizing that by careful work in the press the promoters have given this industry widespread notoriety, COMFORT has given its readers the above article to show what is claimed by its friends; but we do not endorse the project nor do we advise readers to enter into this scheme, which in in the end will cause them disappointment and anxiety.

A GOD-SEND TO PILE SUFFERERS. Thousands cured by my new discovery. Any case permanently cured or forfeit \$100. Treatment free to any afflicted person. Don't suffer longer but write to Mrs. M. Fredericks, 1544 Euclid Av., Philadelphia, Pa.

\$1.17 FARM BELL.

SEND US \$1.17 with this ad. and we will send you this 50-POUND BELL. If you do not find it the greatest value you ever saw and equal to bells that retail as high as \$5.00, say so and we will return your \$1.17. The bell is 17 inches in diameter, it is made of Metal, full bronzed, has a loud, clear ring, fine tone, well finished, a very handsome bell. Comes complete with all mountings and hangings to go on post. Order today and save more than one-half in price. Write for free Catalogue of Farm, Church, School and Factory Bells, all SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.

CORRECT WAY TO HOLD.

ears long and slim. In some of the imported rabbits there is an entire absence of the dewlap, while the best domestic varieties show a moderate development of this feature. Their color is of a soft rich roan or "rufous red," the shade

being influenced by the ticking, or black hairs which are irregularly interspersed among the red.

The litters average about seven. The young are born with closed



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE following suggestion for a gift comes from E. H. Cooper of Bridgeport, Conn., and we thank her for it in behalf of the readers of this column:

Procure a map of the town in which the recipient lives (an old city directory will generally furnish one) and mount it on good straw board. Edge it with cord or bind it neatly with ribbon. Attach rings to the upper edge and pass them over a small brass rod; chain, cord or ribbon may be used to suspend the map. Now procure a number of small string tags and number them to correspond with the members of the fire alarm boxes in the city. Slip the string of each tag around a small pin and stick the pins in the map at the places indicated by the number of the box. The location of a fire can be readily determined by a glance at the map while its usefulness for other purposes is not impaired.

J. A. Bee wishes to know the address of the makers of the perfumed waist hangers which we described and illustrated a few months ago. We saw them in a number of shop windows in Boston, Mass. They are so easily made that one can make several for the price asked for one, if bought outright.

For the baby of the family, make a ball by taking a small box containing a bell or marble; wind with yarn until it becomes a good sized ball; then with some colored yarn divide the

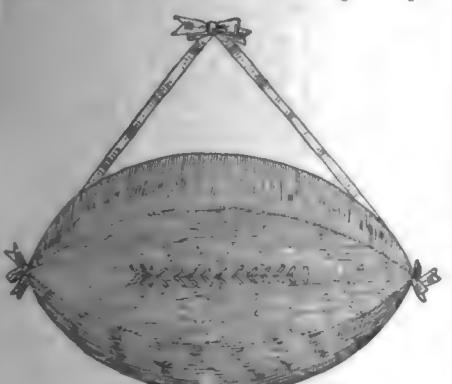


SHAVING PAPER.

ball into four or six parts, fastening at top and bottom. This done take some bright colored yarns and weave stripes around the ball, over and under the dividing threads; when this is done crochet a string from the top of the ball. This will amuse the child at small cost.

For the small boy make a pair of reins. Cut a piece of wigglin for the front piece 16x9 inches, then cut two flannel or felt pieces and on one of them embroider or fasten on a transfer pattern of a horse. Lay a piece of goods each side of the wigglin and bind the three pieces together; then at each end make a band or strap large enough to fasten around the child's waist. For the reins use single zephyr in bright colors and No. 12 needles. Cast on 14 stitches and in plain knitting make a length of three yards and fasten the reins just above the band that goes around the waist. Knit four strips each about three-eighths of a yard long and sew them to the corners to tie the pieces on with. Sew tiny bells to the lower edge of the piece. Any color flannel may be used.

The crocheted umbrella cape is very graceful and is quickly and easily made. It is a perfect circle in shape with the border full enough to fall in flutes. The cape may be



FOOTBALL PINCUSHION.

made of any color Shetland floss. Six to seven banks of floss, a large cedar hook and medium-sized bone hook will be needed in making the cape. Use the bone hook for the first two rows. Work very loosely. Make a chain of 6 and join in a ring.

First round.—Make 12 d. c. in the ring and join the last d. c. to the first one.

Second round.—Make 6 d. c. in space between every third and fourth d. c. to form shells; join as before. (There should be 24 d. c., or 4 shells, in this row.)

Third round.—Now take the cedar hook; skip 3 d. c. below, and make 9 d. c. in space between third and fourth d. c. of 6 d. c. below, skip 3 d. c., repeat, and join the first and last shells by taking up the back stitch from next shell of 6 d. c. and making 1 s. c.; join the shells in every following row the same way.

Fourth round.—In the third space of shell of 9 d. c. below make 6 d. c.; also make 6 d. c. in the sixth space of 9 d. c.; repeat and join the shells as before.

Fifth round.—Skip 3 d. c. make 6 d. c. in space between the third and fourth d. c. of 6 d. c. below; repeat and join with s. c.

Sixth round.—Work 9 d. c. in space between third and fourth d. c. repeat and join the shells with s. c. Now proceed as follows: Work 2 rows of 6 d. c. as before; 1 row of 9 d. c. as before; 3 rows of 6 d. c.; 1 row of 9 d. c.; 2 rows of 6 d. c.; 1 row of 9 d. c.; 5 rows of 6 d. c.; 1 row of 9 d. c. If a larger shawl is desired more rows may be added.

Our illustrations show a few of the new fancy articles shown in the city shops. The first is a case for shaving paper. Not a new idea, but gotten up very prettily, easily and inexpensively. It consists of a 7-inch square of heavy canvas, upon which is embroidered a bow knot in silk. Another square of the canvas is basted onto this piece, to cover the wrong side of the embroidery and the two are then bound together with a narrow satin ribbon. Several sheets of tissue paper, pinked on all the edges, and being cut enough larger than the canvas to show the pinking, are then fastened at the back of the canvas by means of a ribbon put through one corner and finishing with a bow and ends and one long loop for hanging purposes. They are made in all colors, this particular one being of violet; the canvas is in pale brown, but embroidery, ribbon and paper are of a pretty shade of violet.

PINCUSHION.

The football pincushion is made of college colors in silk or wool, as desired. Six pieces of the silk are cut and feather-stitched together and then are stitched tightly over a cushion of right shape. The black and yellow are particularly smart, though of course one would make them of the colors of the college to which one is partial.

Our last illustration shows the prettiest cushion of all, being made in the shape of a boxing glove. It measures about 3 inches and is made in buff chamois leather as well as in black, blue and red silk.

IF YOU HAVE DYSPEPSIA
Send no money, but write Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis., Box 36, for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Restorative, express paid. If cured, pay \$5.50—if not, it is free.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE



Send no money
for 30 days trial free

Free
Send
no
money



will take back all the pins you cannot sell. Well made you a GOLD DOLLAR JEWELRY RING free if you write to-day.

The Maxwell Co., Dept. 121 St. Louis, Mo.

\$3.05 AUTOHARP

SEND NO MONEY
Cut a ad. cut and send to us, and we will send you this BEAUTIFUL SWEET TONE AUTOHARP and complete outfit by express C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if you find it perfectly satisfactory and exactly as represented, one of the finest musical instruments you have ever seen, equal to Autoharp you have ever seen, pay the SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$3.05

OUR \$3.05 AUTOHARP is one of the highest grade Autoharp made. Has 23 strings, 5 bars and produces 5 chords. Made of selected resonant spruce pine, handsomely polished and finished; very strong and very sweet and powerful tone, such an instrument as no one can equal. It is made for the home, how to play and also very pretty musical selections, full assortment of picks, tuning key and a fine music stand. The Autoharp is one of the most popular of the smaller musical instruments. It is extremely simple and no complicated parts, no mechanism that requires skill to operate. Anyone, even without musical ability, can play it with little practice. Forms a beautiful accompaniment and is one of the most pleasing musical instruments made. \$3.05 is our Special Offer Price until 500 are sold. ORDER AT ONCE. Write for Free Music Catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

FUR COLLARETTE FREE

Don't pay out your good money for a beautiful Fur Collarette, when we are giving them away free to quickly introduce our Jewelry Novelties. There is no catch or trick about this advertisement, we guarantee to do exactly as we say, and every lady who will respond to our generous offer of this beautiful Opossum Fur Collarette, with 1-2 d. c. white Handkerchiefs, all silk embroidered, and a beautiful Ladies' Pocket Book, all leather, gilt and silver metal fastened. We ask no money in advance, if you agree to sell only 8 of these fast selling Brooches \$2.50 each (regular price 50c) send name and address and we will mail them postage. They sell on sight. When sold send us the \$2.00 and we guarantee if you comply with the offer we shall be soon with the Handkerchiefs and Pocket Book; this beautiful Opossum Fur Collarette will be given absolutely free. These Handkerchiefs are pure white, pointed, white scalloped edge, 12x12 1-2 floral embossed. One in picture in wash silk. The Pocket Book is all leather, elaborate stampings, nickel frame coin compartment, all around gilt and silver metal front decorated. The Fur Collarette is exactly as shown in picture, it has 16 inch tabs, high storm collar, 10 black Opossum tails, 2 persian heads, belt leather, gilt and silver metal fastened. Premiums are sent postpaid same day money is received. We are an old and responsible concern, and absolutely guarantee all our premiums exactly as represented. Mrs. M. E. McDonald, Black River, Mich., writes: I sold all the Jewelry in ten minutes. Miss Lettie Sorenson, Minn., writes: Received my premiums to-day and am very much pleased with them. I cannot see how you can give such large premiums for such little work. Write to-day, don't miss this rare chance. All who have received these beautiful presents are delighted.

NATIONAL MERCANTILE CO., Nicholson Fl., St. Louis, Mo.

This firm is well known for its honest goods and valuable premiums.



FOR SELLING OUR JEWELRY NOVELTIES.

Watches, Cameras, Bracelets, Gold Rings,

given away ABSOLUTELY FREE for selling our Jewelry. No money received. Send us your name and full address on a postal card, and we will send you 18 gold plate scarf and stick pins, all set with different colored stones, to sell for 10 cents each. The best sellers offered by any firm. When you have sold all these pins, we will send you your choice of a Watch, a solid Gold Ring and any other valuable premium on our large illustrated list, which we send you with the pins. We pay all postage.

NOVELTY MFG. CO., 23 Park St., Attleboro, Mass.



ENTONA CURES

Constipation and Hemorrhoids.
At all druggists, 50c. a box or sent on receipt of price.
Write a postal to-day for
FREE SAMPLES
THE ENTONA CO., Dept. C, 61 Fifth Avenue, New York.

\$1.50 MILK CAN.

For \$1.50 we sell the Celebrated Chicago Special eight-gallon Milk Can. One of the most popular cans for creamery, dairy and general wagon use. Used generally in every part of the United States. Made for under contract by the best and oldest milk can maker in America. Made from high grade heavy tin plate, extra well soldered, heavy base and body, keeps, seamless neck and cover. Average weight 16 lbs.

OUR FREE OFFER. How many cans you want, cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you the cans by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine them at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, the greatest value ever offered, much lower in price than you can buy elsewhere, then pay the railroad agent \$1.50 freight charges. This will average on six cans about 75 cents for each 500 miles. For prices on other kinds and grades write for Free Catalogue of Dairy Supplies.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill.

BED, SPRINGS AND MATTRESS, \$5.95

SEND NO MONEY if you live within 800 miles of Chicago; if you send \$1.00 and we will send you by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination, this WHITE ENAMELED IRON BED, WOVEN WIRE SPRINGS AND MATTRESS. You can examine them at your nearest freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to any other iron bed, and we will sell it at \$5.95.

buy elsewhere, then pay the railroad agent \$1.50 freight charges. This will average on six cans about 75 cents for each 500 miles. For prices on other kinds and grades write for Free Catalogue of Dairy Supplies.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

EST VALUE YOU EVER SAW, pay the railroad agent OUR SPECIAL \$5.95 and freight charges (less \$1.00 if sent with order). The outfit weighs about 140 pounds, and freight will average 75 cents for each 500 miles. THE IRON BED is 4 feet 6 inches wide, 54 inches high, is given highest possible white enameled finish in three coats, polished and varnished, beautiful brass cast vases and mounts, MADE EXTRA STRONG and fitted complete with best casters. SPRINGS are HIGH GRADE WOVEN WIRE, heavy, strong hard maple frame, thick batten, ONE OF THE EASTEST, STRONGEST AND BEST SPRINGS MADE. MATTRESS is made of best quality excelsior, with selected white cotton top and good quality ticking. WRITE FOR FREE FURNITURE CATALOGUE.

BEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

420 Quilt

Sofa and Pin Cushion Designs, many new and original designs never before published. Book contains besides, lesson on embroidery, on Battenburg Lace making, all illus., alone worth 50c. each; also illus. lists of materials and quilting designs, including 100 fancy stitches for patch work. Regular price is 25c., but to each reader of this paper we will send a copy postpaid for 10c. LADIES' ART CO., Dept. 5 B, St. Louis, Mo.

\$500 IN GOLD FREE



Can you find the parrot? IF YOU CAN FIND THE MISSING BIRD, YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$500 IN GOLD, WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This, and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the most interesting and best New York publications into every home in the United States and Canada. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY. The current issue has many most interesting stories, and a copy will be SENT FREE to each person answering this advertisement. When you have discovered the missing bird, mark it with a cross and send it to us and you will hear from us promptly BY RETURN MAIL. It may take a little study to discover the bird, but STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE \$500. Do not delay. Send your answer immediately. Address THE METROPOLITAN AND RURAL HOME, 20 North William Street, New York City.

63c SILK OFFER.

FOR \$2.49 we furnish a full waist pattern of 4 yards of genuine Le Dorris Corded Taffeta Silk, the equal of anything you can buy elsewhere for \$5.00.

SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, and we will send you this full waist pattern of 4 yards of this very finest corded taffeta silk, by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine the goods at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, such a silk pattern as you could not buy from your neighborhood at home at less than \$5.00, a class of goods that is seldom seen in country stores at any price, pronounced by everyone the greatest value ever shown in your section, then pay the express agent

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$2.49 and express charges. The express office will average from 25 to 50 cts. OUR SPECIAL PRICE FOR A 4-YARD WAIST PATTERN \$2.49, or 63 CENTS PER YARD.

high grade corded taffeta silk shown this season. It is the most stylish silk shown this season. It is 100% French weave, made for us under contract, and our special 63-cent price barely covers the cost of production, less than dealers can buy in dozen piece lots, on a per cent profit added, less than dealers can buy in

LATEST EFFECT in a handsome corded silk pattern especially for waists, and it is offered by the most fashionable dealers in the amateur or large edition at fancy prices. It comes in white, maize, light blue, heliotrope, cardinal, rose, fuchsia, cerise, turquoise, gray, rose and black. BE SURE TO STATE COLOR WANTED, and give first and second choice.

UNDERSTAND, you take no risk. Don't send a cent and if it isn't perfectly satisfactory when received, the agent returns it at our expense. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.



This illustration will give you some idea of the appearance of the silk waist when made up from 63-cent Le Dorris Corded Taffeta Silk. Of course you can make it in any style.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in old pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again very popular. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they are now and they are now burdened with remnants of HIGH RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which are going to give you a big trade on.

People at a distance have been getting the right assortment to put into soft-pillow quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 50 to 100 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for yourself, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself. Remember the pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of work, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell quilts, fancy pillows, etc., at great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store.

Grand Offer: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful stamped satin pieces; each piece contains nine square inches and is hand-painted by hand with a graceful design for embroidery.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of Plush containing 30 square inches.

BEST WAY: We send ONE of the all we complete assortment for \$1.00 to all who send 25 cents for 6 months subscription to "COMFORT" the best monthly now published, for or other ornamental work. Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.

EMBROIDERY STITCHES, comprising the Outline and Kensington Stitch, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do

and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain package our great book, *With Eight Full-Page Illustrations*, for or other ornamental work. Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin pieces 5 Skeins Embroidery Silk, the best monthly now published, for or other ornamental work. Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.

COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.

THE HAIR TELLS ALL

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS REVEALED BY A LOCK OF YOUR HAIR.

Wonderful Foresight of a Physician.

By a lock of your hair, age, name and sex, Dr. J. C. Bader prepares a scientific diagnosis of your case free and tells what will cure your ailments. It is a remarkable gift to thus reveal by the simple guide of a lock of hair and reveal the state of health and outline the way to happiness. Thousands of men and women are taking advantage of the doctor's offer to give one reading free to each applicant. It is a very interesting and instructive proceeding and the doctor's forty years' experience in practice has given him a wonderful keenness in reading and diagnosing the ills of humanity. Write your name plainly, age, sex and enclose 4 cents in stamp, a lock of your hair and see what the doctor can do for you. It is well worth your time. Address Dr. J. C. Bader, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

I Print My Own Cards
Larger \$18
Money saver, maker
Type setting easy, rules
sent. Write for catalog,
Circulars, Books,
Newspaper. THE PRESS CO.,
Meriden, Conn.

NO DIRT LEFT
In clothes washed with the
"BUSY BEE WASHER"
100 pieces in one hour and
no hard work done. That
is the record. AGENTS
WANTED. Exclusive
sale. Write for terms,
Lake Erie Mfg. Co., 155 E. 13 St., Erie, Pa.

AGENTS SAMPLE FREE

FAVORITE SPOON
For stirring and mixing batter of
all kinds. Sent for actual postage on
sample. Large catalogue sent FREE.
22 out of 100,000 prepaids. Dept. X
HOUSERHOOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.,
or New York, Buffalo, St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, Seattle.
This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reusable.

AXION ELASTIC TRUSS
WORN NIGHT and DAY.
Patented improvements, com-
fort, safety. New full illus-
trated Book telling all about
Rupture sent FREE, securely
sealed. G. V. HOUSE
MFG. CO., 744 Broad-
way, New York.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Brass Band
Instruments, Drums, Uniforms,
& Supp. Ics. Write for catalog, 445
Illustrations. FREE. It gives in-
formation for musicians and new
bands. LYON & HEALY,
28 Adams St., CHICAGO.

KIDNEY AND BLADDER CURE FREE.
Any sufferer from
diseases, Bright's
troubles, and any
other tract, by send
Dr. D. A. Williams,
will receive by
free, Trial Treatment of the one medicine that will
permanently cure after everything else has failed.

FREE
this genuine
14k. Rolled
Gold Ring or
a Band Ring,
Knife, Shirt Waist Set, etc., to
those who will sell 10 of our
ROMAN GOLD STICK PINS
at 10cts. each. They
sell quickly at the
price: suitable for ladies or gentlemen.
No Money Required in Advance; just send
your name and address saying you will sell
the pins or return them and we will send
the pins or a refund with large premium
list of valuable Chains, Opera Glasses,
Clocks, etc. When sold you send us the
money and we will send the premium you
select. Our Premiums are the Best.

M. R. COMPANY, 19 Dearborn St., Dept. 64, Chicago.

\$14.95 DISC HARROW OFFER

OUR DISC HARROW, \$14.95

SEND NO MONEY If you live
within 500 miles of Chicago, cut this ad, out and
send to us, and we will send you this
high grade Disc Harrow by
freight C. O. D., prepaid to examination.

You can examine it at your freight
depot, and if found perfectly satis-
factory, exactly as represented,
the equal of any Disc Harrow made, about
ONE-HALF THE PRICE

charged by your dealer
at home, pay the freight
agent our SPECIAL OFFER

PRICE \$14.95
and freight charges.

DISC HARROW, It is the
highest grade steel disc harrow made. Made from the best material
and labor, with no strain on the
axles, and by skilled mechanics.

The frame is made
from extra heavy high grade steel to withstand any
strain. Axles are from highest grade inch square steel, every
one tested to highest strain.

Blades are the very highest
grade made. They are made to withstand wear and will outlast
any other disc on the market. Made with square holes to
accommodate the axle, shovels have square holes so that it forms
one solid piece, making it impossible for the discs to get loose on the axle.

OUR \$14.95 DISC HARROW is the very latest
for 1901. Embroidered
with the latest feature of every other disc harrow made, put
under our binding guarantee as the highest grade disc
harrow on the market and offered direct to the farmer
from the factory on THE BASIS OF FACTORY COST.

OUR \$14.95 PRICE is for harrow complete with seat,
eveners and singlets. FOR LARGER DISC HAR-
ROWS WRITE FOR DISC HARROW CATALOGUE.
Address SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

The harrow weighs 45 lbs. and the freight from the factory
in central Ohio, will average about \$2.00 per each 500 miles
of our small profit added, less than dealers can buy in earliest
lots. THIS \$14.95 HARROW has 12 16-inch discs and is
the highest grade steel disc harrow made. Made from the best material
and labor, with no strain on the
axles, and by skilled mechanics.

The frame is made
from extra heavy high grade steel to withstand any
strain. Axles are from highest grade inch square steel, every
one tested to highest strain.

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eveners and singlets. FOR LARGER DISC HAR-
ROWS WRITE FOR DISC HARROW CATALOGUE.
Address SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

EVERY LADY READ THIS.

I will send free a positive cure for all female
diseases, irregularities, etc. A simple home
treatment, a common sense remedy that never
fails. FREE with valuable advice. MRS. L. D.
HUDNUT, South Bend, Ind.

PERFUMES and Toilet Soaps. No money required.
Good profit. SALVONA SOAP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES \$3 to \$10.
Bargain list free. Mead Cycle Co., Dept. B, St. Louis, Mo.

HOME WORK FOR MEN & WOMEN FREE
NO CANVASSING WORLD CO. ST. LOUIS, MO.

Cloth by the Yard

tailor made suits. Sample book containing 400 cloth
samples free to any one who will agree to push sales.

STANDARD LADIES'
TAILORING COMPY

266 Franklin Street,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Agents Wanted

vanilla caramels; have one cup of chopped figs
in a buttered tin; when boiled enough pour
over the figs.

Nut and coconut caramels may be made by
either chocolate, maple or vanilla caramel
recipe by adding one cup of chopped walnut or
the same amount of coconut.

CANDY CORN CAKE.

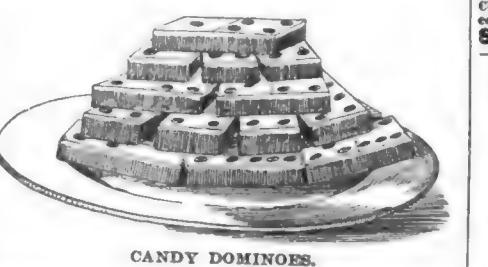
Have ready enough popped corn to fill a two-
quart measure, salt it, and sift it through your
fingers to remove all the loose salt and the un-
popped kernels. Now make a candy with a
cupful of molasses, half a cupful of brown
sugar, a dessertspoonful of best vinegar, and
about one-half oz. of fresh butter; when this
is ready stir in as much of the corn as will take
up, then press the mixture into buttered or
oiled tins, mark it out in cakes with a sharp
knife, and leave till set.

MAPLE CREAM.

Two and one-half cups brown sugar; one-
half cup milk or cream; one-fourth cup
butter; one quart peanuts chopped fine; one
teaspoon vanilla. Boil the sugar, milk and
butter together until it hardens in cold water;
Add the peanuts and vanilla. Take from fire
and stir continually until it turns to sugar;
pour into buttered pans to cool.

"Enjoying poor health" is an expression that
has been much laughed at; but it may almost
come true in the realization of all the modern
comforts that have been provided for sick people.

Take for instance the changed custom of
raising invalids in bed. There is the couch
that enables even the sick person to lie flat on
his or her back and enjoy all the effect of a



change of position. This new invention is just
an ordinary, lightly-built metal bed with a
springy wire mattress that, by touch of the
nurse's hand, can be raised or lowered, tipped
this way or that, giving the invalid all the de-
lightful sense of movement and change without
really altering the position in the least.

Then there is the bed for people with broken
limbs or injured backs, who dare not move as
they hope to grow well and strong. This deli-
ghtful bed is fitted with special springs and
casters so adjusted that it can be pushed about
a room without ever so slightly jarring the occu-
pant, and yet affording a constant variety in
location. Even the relief of occupying differ-
ent rooms from time to time is now possible,
which means so much in cheerfulness and
strength to invalids. While the pivoted bed
has been made especially for those who are
forced to a prolonged rest on their backs, there
have been many improvements put forth lately
in behalf of the invalid, who need suffer no
such test of endurance and patience, but can
sit up a little, for meals.

You know it used to be the fashion—and the
only way we knew, in giving the patient an
erect bed with the liberal use of pillows to
form a back-rest, else a hard board, with an
easel support, was placed behind the sick person,
a pillow put on this and the body was
propped into just the posture that threw all
the strain on the base of the spine. Now an
excellent appliance has been brought out that
does away with pillows entirely. The new
back-rest, for use in bed, is cushioned, built
high enough to afford a head supporter, has
tuft projecting ears, like the "grammy chair",
to cut off draughts, and well-cushioned arms
on both sides to give the patient comfort for
her elbows. This back-rest is so arranged that
the invalid can sit or partially recline at any
angle by merely working a small lever at one
side, herself, which throws the broad supporting
board backwards as the need may be.

Then, too, for the bed-ridden invalid, who
creeps out to the comparative freedom of sofa
life, there are possibilities of great relief in the
new tufted spring couch, the long seat and
headrest of which is artfully hinged to admit
of many changes in the sick person's position.
It can be adjusted to support a weak back, to
raise or lower the head and the whole cushioned
top of the sofa can be also lifted off to slip into
a wheeled spiral chair that the patient occupies
while stretched at full length.

Or, does the patient have to have her meals
in bed? There have been meal trays in use be-
fore, but none so cleverly provided with con-
veniences nor so cheerfully and artistically or-
namented as those now purchasable; and ex-
cellent ones they are for use both as meal trays,
card, chess, backgammon and checkerboards.

Exceedingly pretty dinner stands are now
being made of wicker, stained green, brown or
cheerful cherry red with pockets at the cor-
ners and along the sides into which the salt,
pepper boxes, etc., will fit and prevent that irri-
tating restlessness with which inanimate ob-
jects are sometimes possessed. And many of
these have legs that will let it stand firmly on
the bed and raise it just above the invalid's
lap. And if "trifles make up the happiness or
the unhappiness of life" to the average human
being—how much more do they effect the in-
valid.

EVERY LADY READ THIS.

I will send free a positive cure for all female
diseases, irregularities, etc. A simple home
treatment, a common sense remedy that never
fails. FREE with valuable advice. MRS. L. D.
HUDNUT, South Bend, Ind.

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Good profit. SALVONA SOAP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES \$3 to \$10.
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Agents Wanted

A Chinese Theater.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NE who goes only once to a Chinese theater thinks of it as a place of awful noises, gorgeous costumes and a performance of which it is impossible for an American to get head or tail.

It was my good fortune not long ago, to become intimately acquainted with the manager of one of the most perfectly equipped Chinese theaters ever operated in America, and through his kindness and by means of his explanations I came to have a pretty good understanding of how the play-house was run, and a fairly good comprehension of the plot of the play which was the leading attraction at the time.

The company playing at this house had been

NEW YORK'S LATEST & MOST POPULAR MUSIC. Any of the pieces here mentioned will be sent postpaid for 25 cents each, or any five for one dollar. F. A. MILLS, 48 West 29th St., New York City.

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PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS entirely removed in 2 to 6 days. Never falls. Skin left soft, clear and healthy. Perfectly harmless. Send 10c. Prof. F. R. BIRD, Dept. 82, 64 Federal St., Boston, Mass.

FREE TO AGENTS

IDEAL CAKE SPOON will mix cake or bread in 1/2 time and is used in 1000 other ways. To prove its merits we will send one Sample FREE on receipt of 50c to pay for postage and our Catalogue of 500 fast selling Specialties. Easy Work, Big Profits. NAT'L NOVELTY WORKS, 71 Wabash Av., Chicago

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Watches, Cameras, Sporting Goods, Jewelry, etc., given away for selling 15 packages of EXCELSIOR BLUING at 10c. We ask no money. Send your name and address and get outfit and premium list with instructions postpaid. When you get the Bluing send us the money and select your premium. We Trust You. This is an honest offer. Write for outfit today. EXCELSIOR BLUING CO., Dept. 8, Chicago

65c BUYS A \$2.50 TRUSS

OUR OFFER: Cut this and send it to 65c.

State your height, weight and age; how long have you been ruptured, whether rupture is large or small, also state number of inches around the body on a line with the rupture, say if rupture is on right or left side, and we will send you by express this Genuine 65c. New York Reversible Elastic Truss.

If you do not find that it fits you perfectly, entirely satisfactory and comfortable, the very best Elastic Truss made and equal to trusses sold by others at 25c to 50c, return the truss to us and we will immediately refund your money. THE GENUINE 65c NEW YORK REVERSIBLE ELASTIC TRUSS is recommended by physicians and surgeons everywhere. Highest grade belt 1 1/2 inches wide, made of extra heavy, very best elastic web; fastened with nickel fastenings, with solid front and fine enamel pad. Has the best improved safety elastic fastenings, most reliable fastenings made.

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65c IS OUR SPECIAL CUT PRICE truss for a limited time only. Write for Free Truss Catalogue.

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GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEST

This is an honest contest. Every person who can rightly guess what State is represented in the above picture, will get a reward; when correctly answered. It is the name of a State in the United States. You may win Cash Reward. This Contest is Free; it contains no elements of chance and does not require you to send any money with your reply; all correct answers will get some cash without any trouble, expense or risk. The answer on your map, if it is right, your guess costs nothing, so that when you receive it is clear gain. You have but one answer. Send it at once, naming what state you think is correct, and we positively guarantee to pay you a Cash Reward if correct. Address BESS REMEDY CO., Dept. 15 F., New York.

FREE Silk Ribbon REMNANTS.

Our stock of Silk Ribbon Remnants from which we put up these free packages consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain Holes, Picket Edge, Satin Edge, Silk Brocaded Striped Organza, and are all one or more in length. Many are of the finest quality made and adapted for bonnet-strings, neckwear, trimmings on hats, dresses, bow scarfs, etc.

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To introduce Nichols' Story Magazine, printed in five bright colors, we send one package Silk Ribbon Remnants by mail free to each person sending 10 cents for a six months trial subscription, or we send two packages free to each person sending 20 cents for a full year's subscription.

NICHOLS' MAGAZINE, Chicago, Ill. This firm is absolutely reliable.—Editor.



FREE CHINA DINNER SET

FOR A FEW HOURS' WORK SELLING QUEEN BAKING POWDER Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a pound can Queen Baking Powder we give FREE a beautiful Pitcher and 6 Glasses to match, latest cut glass pattern (like picture). To the lady who sells 15 pounds can Queen Baking Powder, we will make a present of a handsome 50-piece Dinner Set, full size tableware, handsomely decorated and gold traced. We also give Cash Commission. Write to-day for our illustrated plans offering many premiums you select, pay freight and allow you time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., 806 North Main Street, St. Louis, Mo.



BEST IN THE WORLD

Highest Grade, Highest Arm, Richest Inlaid Marquetry Decorations; Positive Four-motion Feed, no Battling Springs used; Round Tool Steel Noddy Bar; Self-threading

FULL BALL BEARING Shuttle; Self-setting Needle; Automatic Bobbin Winder; Automatic Tension Release.

ADVANCE NO MONEY

If you wish to buy the easiest running and most reliable machine made, send us this advertisement, your name, post-office address and railroad shipping point, we will ship this splendid machine by freight C. O. D. for examination. If found satisfactory pay agent and freight charges and the machine is yours, otherwise he will return it to us; we stand all freight charges.

ALL ATTACHMENTS FREE; one ruffler or gatherer, Shirring plate, binder, set of four hammers, tucker, braider, quilter, thread cutter, also foot hemmer and feller, needles, bobbin, screwdrivers, oil can, oil and instruction book. PROMPT SHIPMENTS: There will be no delay in filling your order, we have thousands of machines all ready for shipment.

CASH BUYERS' UNION 158-160 W. VanBuren St. Dept. B-5, CHICAGO, ILL.

No. 9 ARLINGTON Drop Head, 5 Drawers \$15.45

5 1/2 x 10 1/2 inches

15.45

20 YEARS

Guaranteed for

No. 9 Arlington.

brought over from China entire. In it were some very distinguished actors in their own country. The entire expense of establishing the company in this country was far into the thousands, and they paid duty on \$15,000 worth of costumes alone. I wish I could describe these costumes more fully than I can. Only a feminine eye could do justice to them. They were almost all, even for the men, long, full, flowing robes, and most of them made of beautifully soft silken materials of brilliant colors. Many of the costumes were ornamented with exquisite embroidery in colored silks. If any one color predominated it was red, in various shades; next to that I think green, embroidered with yellow was most worn. A Prince, going to war, wore a belted kilt over loose trousers. The trousers were of soft red silk; the kilt of stiff green brocade embroidered with silver which his silver sword and dagger matched.

This prince was the hero of the play. When I came to understand the plot I was particularly impressed by the strange similarity between the theme of this heathen drama, perhaps three thousand years old, and the story of the birth and life of Jesus, the founder of the Christian religion. I do not think any one could have studied the play as much as I did and not feel this.

In China there is no form of piety more reverent than that which is expressed by filial love and devotion to one's parents. The hero of the play was a young man whose parents in their old age had fallen into such trouble that they were almost starving, and he was not able to get work by which he could support them. To provide for their wants he had himself sold into slavery, to be carried to a far province, the price paid for him insuring his parents a comfortable support so long as they might live. This devotion so pleased the gods that they rewarded him, a slave, by having him win the favor of the ruler of the province, and the latter promoted the young man from one official honor to another, until he becomes, at the death of the ruler a Prince, and himself supreme in the province.

But a still greater honor was to be bestowed upon him. The gods sent from heaven to be his wife a beautiful angel, one of six lovely sisters, and to them a little baby son was afterwards born.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)

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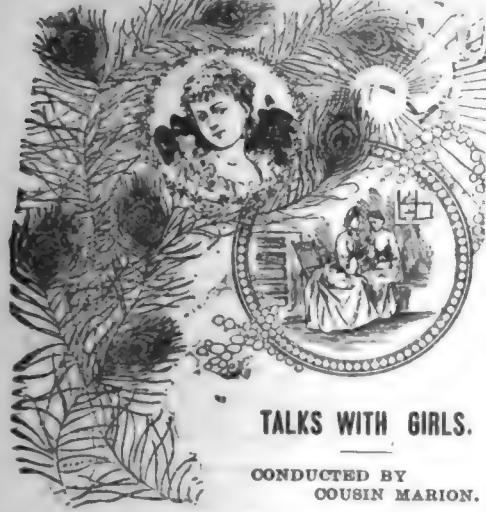
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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Well, dears, did you get fairly started off in the twentieth century? I sincerely hope you did, and that you will have the opportunity of being with it for a long time and getting just as much benefit and pleasure out of it as anybody else gets. Now let us see who comes first in the new year:

From the pile of letters before me the first one I take up is from Cousin Eletta, of Houghton, Mich., and she wants some girls and young men to correspond with her, but I cannot assist her, for as well-meaning as she may be, unknown correspondence is a dangerous thing for a girl, or for anybody for that matter and should not be indulged in.

Sweet Buttercup, Ft. Wayne, Ind.—Wait five years. (2) It is not necessary to ask a caller to call again when he departs, but it is a friendly act. (3) Send your callers home at 10:30. (4) You know well enough it is not proper to sit on your "gentleman friend's lap." Do Ft. Wayne girls do that way? I mean the nice girls. Same about kissing. (5) Do as you please about offering the six o'clock caller refreshments.

The Jolly Four, Marietta, Ohio.—At what age should a girl receive a "fellow?" Haven't all the educational institutions of Marietta taught you that? Your other questions would indicate that they had not.

Gray Eyes, Tallapoosa, Ga.—Yes, a girl of sixteen may go home from a party with a boy in case of emergency.

Viola, Carrington, N. D.—One letter a week ought to be enough from the young man, even though he may have once written two. As they say down South, "Don't crowd the mourners."

Blue Eyes and Brown, Byron, Wis.—There are circumstances under which a girl of fifteen might correspond with a boy friend of the family away at school, but her mother should see all the letters. (2 and 3) Kissing and hand-holding are only for engaged and married people. (4) You must exercise your own judgment in making the young man a present, but it must be something inexpensive and simple. A scarfpin is something a man can always find use for.

Sally and Lena, Cameron, Texas.—You are pretty silly, but you ought to break the engagement if he will not give you a ring. Is he old enough to know better? (2) Don't write again until he writes. (3) "Children obey your parents" is a good rule for you. (4) Give the young man up if he doesn't come to see you. What else can you do when he is so indifferent as that?

Silvia, Pasadena, Cal.—Lemon juice is excellent to remove freckles; better let moles alone. Consult a physician about the other. (2) Nobody knows what will reduce fat with safety until he knows the case. Ask your physician.

Bonnie Blossom, Mitchell, Ind.—See above for your first three or four questions. The other sixteen are altogether too numerous and diversified for me to answer in one issue of COMFORT. Suppose you give them to me on the installment plan.

Annie Laurie, Mt. Zion, Va.—The use of depilatories is dangerous except under a physician's directions. (2) The causes of pimples are so numerous and the cures so diversified that it is best to consult your physician. There are dozens of remedies no one of which would apply to your case.

Just One Girl, McCanna, N. D.—The most effective remedy for a fourteen year old girl's silliness about men is a slipper and I sincerely hope your mother will not hesitate to apply it often if necessary, and I am sincerely hope that one application will bring you to your senses.

Old Maid, Prineville, Oregon.—I am ordinarily very slow to counsel a girl to go against the wishes of her parents in marrying, but yours is a case in which I do not hesitate to advise you to marry the young man. As you are the only child and evidently a very conscientious and considerate young woman, they will not withhold their blessing very long, if at all, when they see your mind is made up to do what your heart tells you is best.

Brown eyed Neil, Portsmouth, Va.—Talk to the merchants in your town and in Norfolk about your needle-work and also write to merchants in Washington and Baltimore. Or to the Woman's Exchange in any of the places named, if they have them. There is a very successful one in Philadelphia. You might write there and inquire. What you want to do can only be done by constant effort and inquiry.

Mattie King, Roanoke, Ind.—See stamp dealers' advertisements in COMFORT.

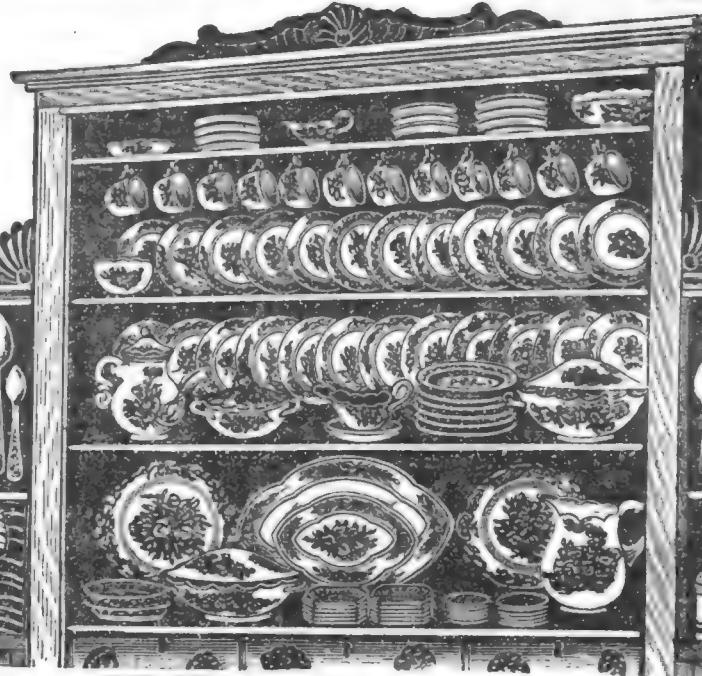
Bluebell, Creola, Ala.—If the sixteen year old girl is pretty she should not wear a "face veil." (2) Yes, wear the hair up, if grown. (3) Yes, if he does not object. (4) As a rule a girl should not go riding with a man unless she is chaperoned, but customs differ in country and city. (5) If I could give a recipe for earning pin-money by home work, I could get rich off of it. (6) A sixteen year old girl should break her engagement, whether the young man gives her nice presents or not. She has no business to be engaged at that immature age.

LIQUOR Habit Cured without patient's knowledge. Send 40c for sample box, etc. MILO DEUGO CO., Dept. 19, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE GOLD WATCH Write A. M. CARSON, 3118 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

IF YOU HAVE ANY DISEASE, write W. O. Broadbush School of Healing, Terre Haute, Indiana.

FREE



FREE

144 PIECE
Dinner Set **FREE**
and 48 PIECES of
Silverware

A rare chance. No deception, we speak nothing but the truth. You can get a full size decorated breakfast, dinner or tea set (144 pieces) and 12 silver plated knives, 12 forks, 12 tea spoons and 12 table spoons for selling our Remedy. We have a reputation for square and honest dealing and to prove it, every honest person who sells 6 boxes of our Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box, a positive cure for constipation, indigestion and torpid liver, will receive our generous offer of a 144 piece decorated set and 48 pieces of silver plated table ware with a beautiful Butter Knife, Sugar Spoon and Salt and Pepper set which we give absolutely free for selling to 6 boxes of Pills. Don't send a cent, order to-day, and we send Pills by mail; when sold send us the \$1.50 and we guarantee if you comply with our offer we shall send you with the Butter Knife, Sugar Spoon and Salt and Pepper set the 12 Knives, 12 Forks, 12 Table Spoons, 12 Tea Spoons and 144 piece decorated Set will be given absolutely free. We are an old reliable concern, and guarantee the dishes and silverware full size for family use. Address L. OETNER, SUPT., DEPT. K 1, 30 W. 13TH ST., NEW YORK CITY.



HYPNOTISM WONDERFUL
BOOK FREE!

A great sensation has been caused by a FREE book that is being distributed by Prof. L. A. Harraden, the world-renowned Hypnotist. It is truly an astounding work in the elegance of its make up, the number and beauty of its plates and the absorbing interest of the subject which it treats. In short, it is a clear and concise statement of all the methods, wonders and triumphs of Hypnotism, as well as Magnetic Healing, Personal Magnetism and the allied branches of occultism. Every secret and mystery is here explained in the simplest language and the reader will be enabled to find that he can master all these powers himself by a few days' study. He learns in fact, how anybody who wishes can use this wonderful book. This book fully instructs without the outlay of one penny—on what Hypnotism is, how it controls other minds, how the sick reforms the vicious, wins love and friendship, helps in trade or employment, interests an audience for profit, and gains for the operator all he may covet of influence, health, wealth and happiness. This wonderful book may be had for the asking. It is to be seen ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST to all who write for it by letter or postal. Whether you wish to use Hypnotism as a power, profession or pastime, send for a copy of this FREE book TODAY. Address, PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, JACKSON, MICH.

SEND NO MONEY.

\$7.95
Write for Free Samples of
Velours Upholstering.

Cut this ad out and send to us, state whether you wish red, green or brown upholstering, and if you live within 400 miles of Chicago, we will send this couch to you by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. **YOU CAN EXACTLY AS REPRESENTED**, such a couch as you could not buy elsewhere at less than double the price, pay the freight agent \$7.95 and freight charge. **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE OF \$7.95** If you live more than 400 miles from Chicago, send us \$7.95 with your order, with the understanding that after you receive the couch, if you are not perfectly satisfied with it, you are to return it to us and we will return to you the amount you paid for both the couch and the freight charges. **THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL.** Use this couch in your own home for three months, and if at any time during the three months you become dissatisfied for any reason whatsoever, return the couch to us at our expense, freight paid, and we will refund your \$7.95. This is the Latest Style, one of the Largest, Handiest, tufted in a very fine imported three-toned velours in red, rose, brown, in a handsome floral design, six rows of deep button tufting, all tufts fastened with steel tufting buttons. Made on a fine, heavy, mahogany finished hard wood rocko frame; highly Carefully packed in paper and burlap. Arrives in perfect condition. **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.**

CRAZY WORK

Self-Hypnotic-Healing Lessons for 10c, by return mail, days. Worth \$5; **MAGNO-CULTURE**, Syracuse, N.Y.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n., Indianapolis, Ind.

I REVEAL YOUR LIFE COMPLETE I LOVE, MARRIAGE, BUSINESS and SPECULATION. When in MARYLAND, W. VA., or PORT CREDIT & UNION PORTFOLIO periods of life, write for my book, "A GUIDE TO SUCCESS" to be assured, and to receive my free gift, "A GUIDE TO YOUR FUTURE." PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.

PILES

Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, DR. E. M. BOTOL, Box 978, Augusta, Me.



Our new series of free prizes for the fortunate. No lottery.

We bind ourselves to make you a present if you succeed in finding the right answer to our appended puzzle, by mail postpaid, any of the following handsome 14-karat Gold Rings: 1-8 South American emeralds, a perfect gem; 2-Ceylon Gratings; 3-Lightweight gold; 4-Blue Sapphires; 4-Lustrous Diamonds. You can select ANY stone you like, and you will find them far superior to the many spurious diamonds now on the market. They are not set in gold, but they are given in a heavy bezel, and are set in gold. You will find them with three two-cent stamps for postage and packing and we will send you one of our free catalogues. No Ring Free. H. H. CO. 1000 FREE. A. P. CO. 1000 FREE. RING. Below you will find a partially spelled word, the additional letters being denoted thus: : Fill out what you consider completes it, which appears in full in the upper portion of this advertisement, and the answer is what you will be if you succeed in finding the right answer to our appended puzzle, by mail postpaid, any of the following handsome 14-karat Gold Rings: 1-8 South American emeralds, a perfect gem; 2-Ceylon Gratings; 3-Lightweight gold; 4-Blue Sapphires; 4-Lustrous Diamonds. You can select ANY stone you like, and you will find them far superior to the many spurious diamonds now on the market. They are not set in gold, but they are given in a heavy bezel, and are set in gold. You will find them with three two-cent stamps for postage and packing and we will send you one of our free catalogues. No Ring Free. H. H. CO. 1000 FREE. A. P. CO. 1000 FREE. RING. Below you will find a partially spelled word, the additional letters being

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Take a Short Cut

Buy direct from the manufacturer. See return's large profit. We make strong, reliable VEHICLES, HARNESS and SADDLES. The kind that stand hard use in all sorts of weather. BEST MATERIALS, STYLES and WORKMANSHIP. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. We ship C. O. D. for examination. YOU TAKE NO RISK. \$15 Top Buggy, \$29.75 \$18 Double Farm Harness \$10.00 \$20 Surrey, \$47.50 \$25 " " \$16.85 Road Cart, \$9.00 and up. Single Buggy Harness, \$4.25 & up. \$50 Spring Wagon \$32.50. Now Catalogue and Testimonials free. All trailers of Team, Double Buggy and Surrey Harness. CASH BUYERS' UNION, 158 W. Van Buren St. B-6, Chicago.

WE GIVE AWAY FREE one solid gold solitaire Puritas rose diamond ring, solid gold pattern, for selling 20 packages Garfield Pure Pepin Gum among friends at cents a package. Send full name; we will give. When cold send money; we will mail ring; we can tell from GENUINE DIAMOND. Unsold and taken back. Wait for us. 200 premiums. GARFIELD GUM CO., 117 MEADVILLE, PA.

FREE

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR ON THE FACE

We will send FREE securely sealed full information how to remove successfully superfluous hair from the face, neck, arms or any part of the person, without the slightest injury to the skin. Write today. Enclose stamp. It is FREE. Address.

TOILET IMPORTING CO., C. 79, Kalamazoo, Mich.

FREE DOLL

Girls, send us your name and address and we will mail you 30 handsomely engraved Silver Novelties to sell among friends at 10 cents each. When sold, remit us the money and we will promptly forward to your address a most magnificent Dressed French Doll, a big and lovely beauty, nearly Two Feet Tall, full jointed body, turned out in the most perfect technical sleeping eyes, slippers, and stockings to take off, and beautiful long flowing hair that can be combed, braided and curled. A large and handsome doll that will delight and please the girls. Order 30 Silver Novelties at once, and address.

AMERICAN NOVELTY CONCERN, Doll Dept. No. 328, Bridgewater, Conn.



Boys watch Free

For One Day's Work. We give a beautiful, reliable watch also a chain and charm to boys for selling 1 1/2 dozen needle cases at 10 cents each. Each case contains 25 cents worth of needles, and at 10 cents each is the easiest thing in the world to sell. You can sell them in one day easy. Send us your address, no money, and we will send you 1 1/2 dozen needle cases. You sell them; send us the money, and we will send you the watch which is a perfect beauty and guaranteed to keep correct time. You can sell the needles in a day easy. It is the easiest way in the world to win a nice watch that keeps accurate time and that you will be proud to carry and to show to your friends. Just send address, no money. Write to-day. Enterprise Co., Dept. 10 Augusta, Maine.

\$3.92 ALL-STEEL LEVER HARROW.

At \$6.92 for each 50-tooth section, we offer the highest grade ALL-STEEL LEVER HARROW made, the equal of any steel harrow sold at double the price.

Price for 1 section, 30-tooth, 5-foot, 125 pounds.....\$6.92

Price for 2 sections, 60-tooth, 10-foot, 250 pounds.....\$11.84

Price for 3 sections, 90-tooth, 15-foot, 385 pounds.....\$17.76

Price for 4 sections, 120-tooth, 20-foot, 500 pounds.....\$15.68

SEND NO MONEY,

If you live within 500 miles of Chicago, (if further send \$1.00 extra) about and send to us, 1, 2 or 4 sections harrow, we will send the harrow to you by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, ex-

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represented by the elevated position in which the six women stand. These "women" by the way, are all men dressed in skirts, as the traditions of the Chinese stage do not approve of women taking part in plays, although during late years there has been a disposition to change this rule.

The bit of action where the Prince comes to understand the situation is the best exhibition of acting in the whole play. The wife, up in heaven—on the table—warbles a solo softly, as if at a great distance. The bereaved husband hears the sounds faintly, at first, as he indicates by putting one hand to his ear, and standing in a listening attitude. As the angelic song sounds louder, and explains the situation to him, an expression of wonder comes over his face, and then, as she tells of her regret at leaving him, but her belief that the baby will be his comfort, and he begins to realize the honor that has been conferred upon him, the hero's grief gives place to a subdued joy and gratitude that he has been permitted to enjoy even so much of the society of so exalted a personage. He calls a servant and has the baby brought into the room, and takes it in his arms and kisses it. The angel mother looking down from the table sings her joy at the sight, the sisters join in a jubilant chorus, at the end of which they climb down from the tables and walk off the stage. The supers come in and remove the tables and chair, the prince walks off with the baby, and the play is done.

Many Chinese plays go on from day to day in a continued performance of a long drama, but in this case the complete play was given every afternoon and night. Into this performance, too, were introduced certain variety features, similar to our own theatrical methods. There was a sword contest between two soldiers, and a feast was given by the Prince to some noble guest, in order to afford an opportunity for some fancy dancing after the Chinese fashions. Among the dancers was one star performer who was advertised to be one of the famous "small feet" Chinese women. She wore the most wonderful costumes of any of the members of the company, and minced about the stage in a funny little "walk-around," with a great flourishing of a superb fan. As a matter of fact "she" was no woman at all, but a small man walking on artificial supports carved at the bottom to represent the small feet. The feet were shod in silk stockings and tiny red leather shoes, and as they peeped from the hem of his skirt looked like what I should imagine the real thing might.

The three men in the orchestra played on a variety of instruments, according to the sentiment which the action of the play required. I do not know the names of any of the instruments. They were all queer looking; wooden drums, and things which looked like gourds; buckets with strings stretched across them, and a strange fiddle with only one string, on which a man fiddled for half an hour at a time, with his eyes shut. The orchestra smoked cigarettes when they wanted to, and I suspect there was opium in the smoke, for the players seemed in a half somnolent condition a good share of the time. This may have been due to their own music. Awful as it seemed at first I really came to rather like the monotonous "tum-tum" of it. Certainly no other theatrical performance ever gave me more real pleasure than did this in the Chinese play house.

What can be more appropriate for a wedding or birthday present than an Organ or Piano? There was a time when these things were an expensive luxury. Now, however, owing to the change in business methods they are within the reach of all. If any of our readers are in doubt in regard to this let them write to the Beethoven Piano & Organ Company, Box 1024, Washington, N. J., for their large free catalogue. It shows you Organs and Pianos that can be purchased from \$21.75 upwards and you don't have to pay a cent until you have tried the instrument 30 days. The reason they can sell so cheap is because they are manufacturers and sell direct to the people at a very small profit over the cost to manufacture. Write them to-day.

Rescued From Drink

by a new discovery, odorless and tasteless, which any lady can take in tea, coffee or food. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on the drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. Send name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 202 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, O., and he will mail enough of the remedy free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food.

SEND NO MONEY

If you live in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa or Missouri (if in any other state send \$2.00), state whether you wish cloth or leather trimming, whether narrow track, 4 feet, 8 inches, or wide, 5 feet 2 inches, cut out and return this ad. and we will send you this NEW 1901.

STYLE HIGH GRADE LEATHER QUARTER TOP BUGGY by freight—C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest railroad station, call in any expert to examine it, compare it with buggies that dealers sell at \$45.00 to \$60.00, and if you find it perfectly satisfactory, all and more than we claim for it, the greatest value ever shown, then pay the railroad agent our

SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$34.95

\$3.50; 600 to 800 miles, \$4.00 to \$6.00, the exact same freight. After you have bought the buggy from the railroad agent our special offer

ONE MONTH'S FREE TRIAL, price \$34.95, and freight charges, one month, during which time you can put it to every test, compare it with every buggy in your neighborhood, regardless of price, and if you have any reason to be dissatisfied with your purchase, you can return the buggy to us at our expense of freight charges both ways, and we will immediately return your money.

OUR SPECIAL \$34.95 PRICE is based on the actual cost of material and labor, with our

added, based on the actual factory cost from our own factory and is less than dealers can buy in carload lots. This \$34.95 buggy is a thoroughly reliable guaranteed rig, made from selected material throughout and will outwear a half dozen of the cheap factory or implement dealer jobs.

TOP—Leather quarters and leather stays, rubber roof and back curtain, rubber drill side

PAINTING—This rig is given an extra job of painting; body, black with decorated scatrisers; gear, dark green with glazed carmine and aluminum striping. Shafts trimmed with 24-inch black enameled glazed duck and leather.

BODY—Body of small enough to season quickly, box solid panel back, rounded corners, concave risers, swell panel, convexed seat panels, oval edge irons, hardwood step strips, seasoned ash sills and corner pillars, hardwood seat frame, extra well ironed seat, braced throughout, mitered, glued and plugged.

UPHOLSTERING—Seat and back are full spring, highest grade tempered steel springs full, button tufted and trimmed in either good weight dark green trimming cloth or genuine leather, as desired; full padded seat ends, bright toe and panel carpet, nickel dash rail.

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GEAR—The gear is a strong, substantial, well made gear, 15-16 inch double collar, fantailed steel axles, three and four-fifths Elliptic oil tempered steel end springs, full back circle fifth wheel, with king bolt in rear of axle, double reach gear, ironed full length; body loops, quick shaft couplers, a strictly high grade, substantial well made gear, 15-16 inch double collar, fantailed steel axles, three and four-fifths Elliptic oil tempered steel end springs, full back circle fifth wheel, with king bolt in rear of axle, double reach gear, ironed full length; body loops, quick shaft couplers, a strictly high grade, substantial well made gear, 15-16 inch double collar, fantailed steel axles, three and four-fifths Elliptic oil tempered steel end springs, full back circle fifth wheel, with king bolt in rear of axle, double reach gear, ironed full length; body loops, quick shaft couplers, a strictly high grade, substantial well made gear, 15-16 inch double collar, fantailed steel axles, three and four-fifths Elliptic oil tempered steel end springs, full back circle fifth wheel, with king bolt in rear of axle, double reach gear, ironed full length; 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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Sun "crosses the line" this year at about 15 minutes past 2 o'clock in the morning of the 21st day of March, Washington Time, and at that moment a new Astrological year begins. A figure of the heavens erected for that moment shows the 5th degree of Scorpio on the midheaven and the first decanate of the sign Capricorn on the Ascendant or eastern horizon.

Both Jupiter and Saturn are on the Ascendant just about to appear above the horizon; the Sun is near the 3rd cusp; the Moon in the 3rd house nearly in square with the rising planets; Mars is in the 8th house; Herschel is on the 12th cusp, and Mercury and Venus are in the 2nd house.

The great benefic Jupiter still favors the Nation and continues his promise of increased advantages and prosperity to the people of the country. Saturn on the Ascendant, in square with the Moon indicates some unusual hardships to the farming community in the north-eastern regions, resulting from the poor yield of certain crops in 1900 and hence their diminished revenue. The Moon in the 3rd, afflicted, points to some sudden deaths from accidents on railroads and the increased prevalence of digestive disorders affecting the head and brain, and will be likely to result in more than usual deaths from apoplexy, paralysis and heart trouble.

Mars in the 8th indicates increased mortality among the soldiers in our extreme southwestern possessions. There will be also an increase of mortality from diseases of the heart. Herschel on the 12th points to public scandal over prison management in some section or some extraordinary prison-breaking.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1901.

MARCH. 1—Friday. Seek no promotion in official stations nor any favor from thine employer; deal not in patents or patented goods and avoid business communications with large corporations.

2—Saturday. Improve the afternoon hours in preference to those in the earlier parts of the day for transaction of all general business, when also dealings with government officials and superintendents of great public works will be favored, and business with such persons will be more than usually successful.

3—Sunday. Not specially favorable as a Sabbath day and church finances are not likely to be much improved; the evening is mischievous and threatens discord in the social relations and between those matrimonially inclined; keep the temper and avoid rashness in all transactions.

4—Monday. Pursue vigorously all avocations except those which pertain to the elegant in life; ask money accommodations, buy all but fancy goods for trade and deal with judges, ecclesiastics and the wealthy; the past 24 hours have been more than ordinarily mischievous for persons born about the 19th of February, 21st of May, 23rd of August, and 22nd of November, of past years, especially for those active in social life, or whose minds are turned in the direction of matrimony. Such persons will be wise to avoid temptation towards gratifications of a character not commendable.

5—Tuesday. Have no important dealings with lawyers, booksellers and all engaged in the scientific and literary pursuits; postpone important correspondence and do not make any beginning in any matter of consequence.

6—Wednesday. A very favorable day for the vigorous prosecution of business, although the late hours caution against too free expenditure of means for gratifications, as extravagance will be invited and waste will result.

7—Thursday. Beware of entering into any bargain concerning houses or lands on this day; sign no contracts, loan not thy credit nor enter into any litigation; look out not to be induced to buy patented articles and beware of soliciting favor at the hands of municipal authorities.

8—Friday. Give preference to this day for transaction of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, fire-arms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work and chemical and electrical apparatus and also with all persons engaged in the ingenious and mechanical trades; trade with manufacturers, engineers, firemen, carpenters, cattle-dealers, bakers, barbers, tailors and chemists.

9—Saturday. A very fortunate day for money dealings and the prosecution of all general business, and for the purchasing of goods for trade especially such as pertain to the ornamental or decorative in life; all art enterprises on this day are likely to yield unusual advantages and profits.

10—Sunday. This day conduces to happy efforts of the clergy, giving special eloquence and zeal to the extemporaneous speaker and closer attention and more ready comprehension from the listener.

11—Monday. Be not rash in the morning, nor let thy temper overcome good judgment in the noon hours; do not speculate nor concern thyself with real estate matters.

12—Tuesday. Avoid litigation; use the pen very cautiously, engage in no important transactions with printers, booksellers, stationers, mathematicians, lawyers or public writers and do not travel unnecessarily; ask no favors from persons in government service or employ; do not engage with corporations nor take the day for erecting any corporate body; architectural work, especially on public buildings, is not likely to be successful or profitable.

13—Wednesday. Do not ask favor or promotion from persons in authority; beware of the contraction of severe and dangerous colds involving the lungs; the day is not to be depended on for the inauguration of any important matter.

14—Thursday. Bright and prosperous are the conditions of this day for travellers, merchants, tradesmen, and speculators; applications for favor from persons of prominence or distinction will meet with more than ordinary success; the day is particularly fortunate for changing residence, for dealings with persons engaged in the literary pursuits and those connected with the polite arts; have transactions with printers, booksellers, stationers, mathematicians, officers of state and all ingenious persons. REGULUS particularly commends this day to his friends and urges its fullest employment for the greater undertakings in life, especially in connection with the literary world.

15—Friday. Be in no haste to use the morning hours for beginnings, but as the forenoon advances let every energy be put forth and all honorable business pushed to the utmost; the forenoon is best avoided for the transactions concerned with real estate and mines.

16—Saturday. A favorable day for the vigorous prosecution of business although the morning hours present some thwarting testimonies and forbidding dealings with persons who are very eccentric or much advanced in years.

17—Sunday. A day of intellectual acuteness though tendencies to sarcasm and bitterness of speech are elicited; strange whims and notions become pronounced and the temper will need healthful check; let all in charge of church buildings have unusual care for avoidance of fires; let all persons born about the 13th of February, 18th of May, 19th of August, or 18th of November, of past years, have unusual care in these passing days for avoidance of fires and explosions, and to keep out of litigation or contention. There will be some unusual fire losses in these days. All should be careful in handling inflammables and explosives.

18—Monday. Begin this day with the Sun and dimple every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are particularly favored; authors will find this a good day for commen-

ting any new and important work or for launching any of their productions in the literary world.

19—Tuesday. Give preference to the forenoon for money dealings pertaining to houses and lands; do not deal with any corporation in the noon hours; the afternoon is more favorable than usual for the artist and musician; the elegant occupations will be specially prosperous; deal in fancy goods and articles of dress or adornment. More than ordinary pleasure may be had from the social, musical, or dramatical entertainments in the evening.

20—Wednesday. An indifferent day, giving but little promise of advantage or profit from undertakings now begun; they are best postponed for a short season.

21—Thursday. Be careful of the purse in the forenoon, when thou shouldst not have any dealings in land or mining properties of any description; choose the latter half of the day for dealings with surgeons, military men, cutlers, chemists and those generally in the mechanical callings; the mechanic and manufacturer are particularly favored.

22—Friday. The forenoon is the least favorable part of the day, but after the noon hour, urge all manner of traffic; do important correspondence, sign deeds and writings, hire servants and engage actively in the literary pursuits, even late into the night.

23—Saturday. Urge business to the utmost during every moment of this day; choose it for all scientific and literary pursuits, music, painting and illustrating literary productions; make contracts in commerce and in all artistic speculations; buy goods to sell again, especially such as are used for building and improving real estate and mining property.

24—Sunday. The day in general is a peculiarly good one though the morning and forenoon hours are less to be depended upon for good, as conditions interfere with domestic tranquility and contribute to strife and disruption in both the social and more tender relations.

25—Monday. Merchants should transact business cautiously during the early forenoon when also those employed with the pen must act with more than ordinary circumspection; purchases for trade are best deferred until the afternoon hours, when also money accommodations are more readily obtained; give preference to the afternoon for dealings with cutlers, cattle-traders and mechanics.

26—Tuesday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday throughout this day, giving preference to the forenoon for transactions with dentists, surgeons, druggists, chemists, machinists and all workers with fire and metals; make engagements with manufacturers and crowd all general business except that pertaining to the fine arts and the beautiful in life.

27—Wednesday. The very early hours of this day are the best, when the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are particularly favored; as the forenoon advances the day is less auspicious; money matters are embarrassed and speculations now engaged in will result in loss; the forenoon should be used for routine matters only; transactions pertaining to lands, buildings, or agriculture should not be entered into at this time.

28—Thursday. This day is recommended for the artist, dramatist, and musician and the elegant occupations will be specially prosperous; deal in fancy goods and articles of dress or adornment; sign no writings of consequence in the noon hours.

29—Friday. Use this day for advancing thy business without preference for any in particular.

30—Saturday. Bend every energy to the prosecution of business in the first two-thirds of this day, when also public officials and officers of large corporations will be pleasantly disposed; put on the "cautious cap" in the afternoon, avoiding rashness and controversy in all matters.

31—Sunday. A fortunate Sabbath day though not conducive to harmony in associations with very aged persons, who are best avoided.

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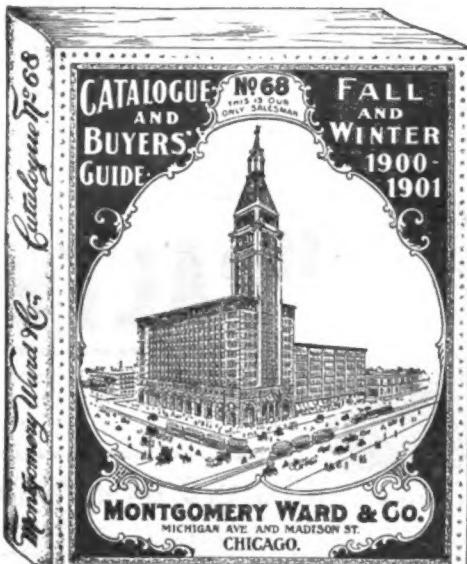
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An American Genius.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE remarkable career of Benjamin Thompson, an American boy of long ago who in his latter life became Count Rumford, is a career with which many very intelligent boys and girls are strangely unfamiliar. Some of the most popular of our American histories make but brief mention of Benjamin Thompson. This may be because he was disloyal to his country, and while this is a serious offense Benjamin Thompson was not a traitor in the real sense of the word, and his life was one of great usefulness to his own and other countries. If you were to visit the beautiful city of Munich you would see there a fine statue of Thompson erected by the grateful people in memory of a man who did much for the poor and suffering.

If you were to go to the town of Woburn, ten miles from Boston, you would see the house in which Benjamin Thompson was born in the year 1753.

His father was a farmer, and the life of the boy was like that of any other farmer's boy, but he very early in life revealed the fact that he was not like the ordinary farmer boy. It became evident that he had a mind far beyond his years. It also became evident that he was not "cut out for a farmer," for he was dabbling in all sorts of chemical experiments before he had reached his teens. His father was wise enough not to make any attempt to force the boy to become that for which it was so evident that nature had unfitted him, and when young Benjamin was but thirteen he was sent to Salem to enter the store of John Appleton. All of his spare time when he was out of the store was occupied in scientific studies and experiments. He lived with Mr. Appleton, whose home was frequented by the most learned men of Salem, whose conversation was chiefly on

educational or philosophical topics.

The quiet young apprentice sitting unnoticed in a corner drank in all that was said and turned all that was of real value to account. He had lessons from the Rev. Thomas Barnard, minister of the First Church and one of the most learned men in Salem. With what diligence the boy applied himself and how alert was his mind may be known from the fact that when he was but fourteen years of age his knowledge of astronomy, algebra, geometry and the higher mathematics was so great that he calculated a solar eclipse to within a few seconds of the time when it occurred. After staying three years in Salem the boy was apprenticed to a Boston merchant named Hopestill Capen who kept a dry goods store. Here young Thompson was faithful to his duties in his master's store, but all of his spare time was given to studies. He was not in the least carried away by the fascinations of the larger town to which he had gone, and he was wise enough to choose for his acquaintances those of character and intelligence. After serving his apprenticeship with Mr. Capen, young Thompson began the study of medicine and anatomy and attended scientific lectures at Harvard College. He had returned to his home in Woburn and he walked to and from Boston every day while he was attending Harvard. When you remember that the distance was ten miles you can understand how determined the boy was to secure an education. When he was nineteen young Thompson began teaching school in Concord, New Hampshire, which was then called Rumford. Before he was twenty years of age he was married to Mrs. Rolfe, widow of Colonel Benjamin Rolfe, a lady of large fortune and a good many years older than her young husband. His marriage gave young Thompson a place among the best and most intelligent people of the town with whom he was a great favorite by reason of his unusual ability and his kindly and pleasing manners.

He came under the notice of the royal governor Wentworth, who was so pleased with his intelligence and his manly bearing that he made him major of a Provincial regiment and showed other marks of special interest in him. He was not yet twenty-one when he became major of his regiment, but he filled the posi-

tion with dignity, and his popularity increased.

Then came the sure signs of the Revolution and it began to be suspected that the gallant young major was more in sympathy with the Royalists than with the Patriots. He protested that his sympathy was with the Patriots, but his loyalty was doubted, and it soon became expedient for him to leave his house in Rumford and conceal himself. The next that was heard of him he was on board a British frigate, and after the evacuation he went to England as a bearer of dispatches from the Royalist general, Howe. Of course there could be no doubt of his sympathy with the Royal cause after that, and he was held in detestation by his countrymen who could not forgive him for affecting a loyalty that he did not feel.

But all that he had lost in popularity in America was speedily made up to him in England where he at once became a general favorite, and where he was patronized by those high in authority. He was at first given a clerkship in the colonial office and soon after he was appointed Secretary of the Province of Georgia. In 1780 he became Secretary of State for the northern department, and while he discharged all the duties of his various offices with remarkable ability for one so young his mind was still partly occupied with scientific problems. He suggested important improvements in the army and navy, and began to experiment in gunpowder. All that he did was well done and his popularity increased. He was made a lieutenant-colonel, and was sent to America with a cavalry command. He reached Charleston, South Carolina, and remained in America until the end of the war when he went back to England and retired from the army. Military life must have been a good deal to his liking, for he set out to help the Austrians in their warfare against the Turks. Falling in with Prince Maximilian they became great friends, and Thompson entered the service of Bavaria. He remained in the service of Bavaria for eleven years occupying different official positions and rising to the distinction of one of the most honored citizens of Munich. He instituted many reforms for the good of the city and for the good of all Bavaria. He re-organized the army, and set in operation certain systems of the greatest benefit to the poor. He was so

helpful to them and so genuinely sympathetic that they regarded him as the greatest benefactor they had ever known.

When he became seriously ill the poor of Munich formed a great procession and marched to the cathedral to offer up prayers for his recovery. He saved the city from capture by its enemies, and if he had been disloyal to his own country he was loyal to the countries of his adoption. It may have been that he was in this way trying to atone for the wrong-doing of the past. It may have been that he was sincere in his feeling that the Royalists were right and the Patriots wrong in their struggle for supremacy in America. Allowing this to be true, he was still guilty of wrong-doing in affecting a loyalty to America when he was planning to join the ranks of the British.

Plain Benjamin Thompson became Count Rumford in the year 1791. The title of count of the Holy Roman Empire was given to him, and he must have had some lingering love for his old home for he chose to be called Count Rumford and he gave other proof of affection for the land he had deserted. It can at least be said to the credit of this American Count that he lived a life of great industry and usefulness. After he retired from public service in Bavaria he became one of the greatest students of his day, and his discoveries were of great value to the scientific world. He gave special attention to the subjects of light and heat and fuel. He became an inventor of a number of useful articles. He instituted in America the "Rumford Medal" for the advancement of the knowledge of light and heat, a medal that is still awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston.

In his last years he went to France to live and he died at Auteuil in the year 1814. He never saw his native land after leaving it at the close of the Revolution, but it is certain that he had it much in mind, and it must have been that a man of his sensibilities must have looked back in his declining years with sorrow and regret on the disloyalty of his early manhood that made him an alien, and his name a reproach to his countrymen. He was long ago judged by Him who knows all hearts and human motives as we cannot know them, and it is not for us to judge him now.

